



“...Let us remember that, as many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school.”

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

23rd April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: School Attendance

As I am sure you are aware, attendance and attainment are very closely linked. At St. Paul's, we are very grateful for the support of all parents and carers who ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually. This allows teachers the best possible opportunity to support our pupils to reach their full potential.

We have a strong expectation at St. Paul's that our pupils aim for 100% attendance, so that they have access to all learning opportunities. Although the national expected minimum attendance rate for primary school children is 96%, if pupils have more than 7 days absence from school during the academic year, they will not be able to achieve this level.

To help us promote regular attendance and punctuality and ensure that absences are kept to an absolute minimum, we will be working with The South Eastern Attendance Advisory Service (SEAAS) who will provide focused support to improve school attendance.

Working closely with SEAAS, we will continuously monitor and review the attendance of all pupils. If we have concerns about a pupil's attendance level or that a pupil's attendance is having a negative impact on their attainment, we will refer the matter to SEAAS who will work with you to improve the attendance.

With effect from Tuesday 23rd April 2019, SEAAS will work on behalf of the school to address all attendance concerns including lateness and holidays in term time. In cases where attendance does not improve and or parents are not engaging with the process, SEAAS will consider all the legal options available to them including penalty notices and referrals to the Local Authority for prosecution under Sec.444(1) Education Act 1996.

If you have concerns about any issues which may affect your child's attendance or punctuality, please contact us at the school in the usual way in the first instance, or you may contact Mrs Alison Smith from SEAAS at alisonsmith@seaas.co.uk or on 07539 101804.

I look forward to your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr Ben Hulme
Headteacher