



BEACON HIGH



Attendance & Punctuality Parent/Carer Guide

Good Attendance:

The majority of parents want the best for their children. Having a good education is an important factor in opening up more opportunities in adult life. A child who misses a day of school per week, misses the equivalent of two years of their school life. Failing to attend school regularly means falling behind in learning and creates a culture of dissent and anti-social behaviour. Children who miss school lose out on important factors of school social life, which can affect their ability to have friendships. Children who miss school are more likely to become victims or perpetrators of crime. The more school children miss the harder it is to catch up. Statistics show that 90% of persistent absentees fail to achieve 5 or more good GCSE grades, or equivalent. Truants are more likely than others to leave school with few or no qualifications and are more likely to be out of work and become homeless. Poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable. Good school outcomes are the passport into higher education and better jobs.

Good Punctuality:

Punctuality is an important part of self-discipline and is essential to good time management. All students must arrive to school by 8.30am leaving good time for them to make their way to Period 1 at 8.40am. When a student is late to school he/she will incur a detention at lunchtime of the same day. Students are responsible for making their own way to lunchtime detention in DT1. If they do not arrive in DT 1 by 12.50pm, they will automatically be given a 1 hour SLT detention on the same day. Parents will receive a text when their child is late and if a student is late regularly, a letter will be sent home warning of the potential of a referral to Islington for legal action.

What Can You Do?

- ⇒ Encourage good school attendance.
- ⇒ Equip your child for school with the correct uniform, PE kit, school bag, pencil case, books, etc.
- ⇒ Take an interest in your child's educational progress by attending Parents' Evenings and Academic Planning Days.
- ⇒ Make time to discuss your child's day with him/her.
- ⇒ Contact the school if your child is worried about something which is causing him/her to be reluctant to attend school.
- ⇒ Advise school of reasons for absence and likely return date as soon as possible on the first day of such absence.
- ⇒ Make medical/dental appointments after school hours wherever possible.

What the Law Says:

The Education Act 1996 states that parents and carers must ensure that all children of compulsory school age (5-16) receive a full-time education that is suitable for their age, ability and aptitude and special educational needs.

Children must be educated from the commencement of the school term following their fifth birthday, until the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach their sixteenth birthday.

The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure that parents fulfil their legal responsibility and must also ensure that there are enough school places for all children to attend.

Once you have registered your child at a school it is your responsibility to make sure that s/he attends regularly and punctually

If you fail to do so the Local Authority has a statutory duty to consider legal action to enforce school attendance. This may involve the issuing of a penalty notice, prosecution or application for an Education Supervision Order.