

# Dallam CP School

Moving forward together to be the best that we can be

Boulting Avenue, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 0JG

Tel: (01925) 633927 Email: [Dallam\\_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk](mailto:Dallam_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs A. Downey



April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, the last two years have been difficult for all schools and Covid-19 has had a massive impact on pupils' education across the country. With the effects that the pandemic has had on children's education and mental health over the last 2 years, it is more important than ever that we **try to improve attendance in our school**. Therefore, I am sending this letter to all families so that you are fully aware of our practice and how you can support your child's attendance record.

I would like to start by saying a huge well done and thank you to the **16 children** who achieved **100% attendance** so far this year. You are amazing!

As a school we aim for **96% attendance** which would bring us in line with the National average. This is a very ambitious target this year with the impact of Covid but with your help, we are hoping to get as close to this figure as possible in the Summer Term. We have **107 children** who have achieved **96% attendance or better** so far this year. With your support, your child could be counted in this group by the time that we break up for the summer.

We celebrate and reward good attendance in school with PALS points for classes that beat 96% each week, weekly attendance on the newsletter, displaying weekly attendance in the hall, a weekly raffle for children who are in school, on time every day and individual termly awards for over 96% attendance, 100% attendance and significantly improved attendance.

Once your child is registered at a school, the law says you must send them to school every day and on time. The information below outlines our school procedures and where outside agencies may become involved. If you require support in any area related to attendance, please come and talk to us. Mrs Wood is the Attendance Lead together with Mrs Wilson.

We understand that occasionally children are too ill to attend school. If this is the case, please **contact the school office before 9.00am** with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will call or text you to find out why your child is not in school. If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised. If a pupil has two consecutive days of unauthorised absence with no reason given, this becomes a safeguarding concern and we may conduct a home visit to establish the reason for the absence and to see the child in question.

In line with our attendance policy, parents/ carers of children with attendance which falls **below 92%** will be regularly notified that **attendance is a concern**. They may be invited in to meet with either the child's class teacher or the School Attendance Lead. Any absence below 90% will automatically lead to a meeting in school with the school's Attendance Lead and or the Attendance Officer at Warrington Borough Council. Our aim is to support our families to fulfil their legal requirements in ensuring their children access school regularly.

**Persistent absence** is defined by the Government as attendance **below 90%**. This equates to **19 days of lost learning a year or 100+ lessons** missed. If a child's attendance drops below 90% this could lead to them becoming a safeguarding concern. This could also result in the authority taking legal action against parents, resulting in a fine or court appearance.



# Dallam CP School

Moving forward together to be the best that we can be

Boulting Avenue, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 0JG

Tel: (01925) 633927 Email: [Dallam\\_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk](mailto:Dallam_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs A. Downey



As well as being in school every day, it is important to be **on time every day**. Our school day starts at 8:45am – your child should be in class and ready to learn by then. Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons making them fall behind
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future

The table below shows just how much education could be missed by being late to school each day.

Minutes late per day	Learning time lost in a year
5 minutes	3 ½ days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10 ½ days
20 minutes	14 days
30 minutes	21 days

The law changed in September 2013 and schools no longer have the freedom to allow parents to take their children out of school in term time. Only in exceptional circumstances can you write to the Headteacher and ask to take your child out of school.

If you are considering taking your child out of school for a holiday or to travel abroad, it will be unauthorised and will contribute to your child's overall absence record. You must contact the school in writing before you go in order to provide us with the relevant information. Failure to do so could lead to us having to report your children to the Children Missing in Education (CME) team.

We need every child in school on time, every day so that we can fully support our children to catch up and keep up in any areas that they have missed and give them the best possible chances in life. Teachers and teaching assistants in every class are working hard to identify and address gaps in every lesson. **If your child is not in school, they are missing this opportunity and will fall further behind their peers.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs Downey  
Headteacher

---

