



Falcon Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone to a new term at Falcon! We hope you all enjoyed the break and children are rested and ready to learn!

I am writing to remind families that our school day at Falcon begins at 8.40am when pupils should be lined up on the playground and then brought into classes for register which is taken by 8.40am when teaching beings.

Between 8.40am until close of registers at 9.10am, pupils arriving are recorded as late and minutes lost during that first hour are monitored. Children arriving after 8.40am are also missing vital teaching that may have a detrimental effect on their academic progress.

Pupils arriving after 9.10am are recorded as unauthorised and this too is monitored and reported to Norfolk County Council Attendance Team with whom we hold regular support meetings.

The following article, written by the Government, highlights the reasons behind the importance of maintaining good attendance (over 96%);

18 May 2023

Why is school attendance so important and what are the risks of missing a day?

Being around teachers and friends in a school or college environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

That's why school attendance is so important and why the Government is committed to tackling the issues that might cause some children to miss school unnecessarily.

How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

The data also shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

What are the risks of missing a day of school?

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 6 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

What if my child needs to miss school?

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure your child gets a full time-education.

There are only a small number of circumstances where missing a school day is permitted. Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- ☒ Your child is too ill to attend.
- ☒ You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances.
- ☒ Your child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event.
- ☒ Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it's not available or has not been provided yet.
- ☒ Your child does not have a permanent address and you are required to travel for work. This exception only applies if your child attends their usual school or another school where you are staying as often as possible. This must be 200 half days or more a year if they are aged 6 or older.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent.

What counts as an exceptional circumstance?

School leaders are responsible for deciding what counts as an exceptional circumstance when it comes to a child missing school.

Holidays are very rarely an acceptable reason for a school absence and are unlikely to be treated as an exceptional circumstance.

Our attendance policy can be found on our website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Miss S Hunter

Assistant Headteacher