



Seymour Road Academy

Together Everyone Achieves More

May 2019

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENT/CARERS

Seymour Road Academy has been working hard to improve the attendance of all pupils. It is widely recognised that the educational outcomes and future life chances of children and young people can be significantly impacted upon by periods of absence. Therefore we want to encourage parents to ensure that their child attends school every day. We do appreciate the fact that a significant number of pupils have excellent attendance and this should be commended.

At Seymour Road Academy we fully appreciate that there may be occasions when a pupil's attendance may be affected due to exceptional circumstances. In these cases support and advice will always be available from the school. Unfortunately, despite this support, attendance levels for some pupils continue to fall below the school's expectations of 96%. All pupils' attendance is closely monitored by the school and only the head teacher has the power to authorise any absence.

As set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 amended in 2013 - that head teachers continue to have the power to authorise leave of absence, but only in exceptional circumstances. While family holidays are enriching experiences, the school year is designed to give families the opportunity for these breaks without having to disrupt their children's education. It is for schools to consider the specific details and relevant context behind each request. Schools know their pupils best and are well placed to make those judgements.

Any parents/carers of pupils who accrue unauthorised absence are now duly warned that they may receive a penalty notice or be prosecuted in the magistrate's court. Where a parent/carer removes their child during term-time without authorisation they may be liable for a penalty notice or prosecution in the magistrate's court. A penalty notice will be issued to each parent for each child. The penalty notice incurs a fine of £120 to be paid within 28 days, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days.

Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in legal proceedings being taken against you. Other statutory action may also be considered under the Education Act 1996, which may result in you being prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court. If you are found guilty, you will receive a criminal record and may receive a fine of up to £2,500 and/or three months' imprisonment.

If your child is experiencing any problems that may be affecting their attendance or punctuality, then please contact the school on 0161 370 2616 to discuss any support that could be provided to ensure their regular attendance. We would also request parents/carers provide school with medical evidence when absence is related to illness, i.e. a copy of prescriptions or medical/appointment cards.

Once again thank you for supporting Seymour Road Academy in improving attendance, which will ensure that all pupils in school have the opportunity to reach their full potential and improve outcomes for their future.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs De Courcey

