



## TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

3rd March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We are all pleased that school has become more consistently operational since the end of COVID-19 closures, and since the removal of isolation periods for close contacts of positive cases.

The pandemic had a significant impact on pupil attendance as we experienced a rise in the number of pupils absent from school, but unfortunately, in recent weeks, we have also received an increase in the number of requests for term time holidays. Due to several factors, attendance, for some, is falling below the standards expected by the DfE, which is why I must write to you. Absence from school is a serious issue for children academically and pastorally. When children return from a period of absence, they can struggle to make up the learning that they missed and this can have a negative impact on confidence in the classroom despite the best efforts of teaching and support staff.

As indicated below, the impact of just a few days' absence can be significant on your child's academic progress.

100%	<b>Excellent attendance</b>
98%	<b>Very good attendance</b> Less than 4 days absence per year
95-97%	<b>Satisfactory attendance</b> Less than 9 days' absence a year. Poulton Lancelyn Primary School attendance target for all pupils is 97% or above.
94-90%	<b>Below average/low attendance</b> 14-18 days' absence per year; missing this much schooling means that the pupil will miss out on opportunities within the wider life of the school.
90% or below	<b>Exceptionally low attendance</b> 19 days or more absences in a year. Students with attendance of 90% or below are classed, under Government guidelines, as persistently absent from school and parents of pupils with this level of attendance may be called into school to meet with the Headteacher.  It will be difficult for persistent absentees to keep up with their work and their school work may suffer significantly as well as missing out on a significant amount of additional opportunities.

Please note that there are plenty of strategies to use and agencies available to help support you in ensuring that attendance reaches at least 97%. These include:

- Regular checks and keeping healthy advice from your GP
- Wirral health & Well Being Hub – no appointment necessary and free to attend across the Wirral – search “Health and wellbeing hub for children in Wirral”
- CAMHS advice line 0151 488 8453
- Support from school – class teacher and pastoral support
- Medication delivered by school office staff (with permission form completed)
- Routine dental/sight checks taken out of school hours or done in school holidays

Further pastoral support ideas are available on our school website  
[https://www.poultonlancelyn.wirral.sch.uk/web/pastoral\\_care/369756](https://www.poultonlancelyn.wirral.sch.uk/web/pastoral_care/369756)

The DfE regulations make it clear that a Headteacher must not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances; holidays will be **unauthorised** and may be referred to the Education Social Welfare team and incur a fine.

If you have downloaded our Eschools App you will be able check your child's attendance every time you log on. The school office can support parents that do not have the App.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child has good attendance in school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Arnold  
Headteacher