

TheSouthAlliance

South Bromsgrove High School · Charford Road · Bromsgrove · B60 3NL

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8th September 2017

Attendance Matters!

I would like to introduce myself as the Attendance Interventions Coordinator for the South Bromsgrove pyramid of schools. This includes Alvechurch Middle School. It is my role to look at those students whose attendance is falling below the expected level and work with both student and family in finding ways to improve this.

Whilst we all know that it is inevitable that children will have periods of illness during their time at school, it is essential that we look at ways to minimise this and the impact it has on achievement. Regular and punctual school attendance is essential – only pupils who attend school regularly can take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them.

What is good attendance?

All pupils should strive towards achieving 100% attendance. Once attendance drops to 90% your child is classed by the Department of Education as being 'Persistently Absent'. 90% attendance is the equivalent of:

- One half-day every week
- Four whole weeks of lessons in the school year
- Half a school year during KS3 and KS4
- **Children who miss this much school have been proven to drop at least ONE GCSE GRADE.**

Monitoring attendance

Staff at Alvechurch Middle School will closely monitor all children's attendance. If they feel concerned I may be asked to contact you either by phone or by letter to discuss any obstacles to regular attendance. However, if attendance does not improve, a meeting may need to be set up with parents and the school to find solutions. I may also be asked to carry out a home visit. Occasionally it may be necessary to request medical evidence in order to authorise continuing medical issues. Continued unauthorised absence could lead to a referral to the Education Investigation Service.

What can parents do?

If your child is suffering from a minor ailment such as a cold or a cough please consider sending them to school. The school will always send them home if they feel they are too unwell to be there. Keep in contact with the school every day to make them aware of what is wrong and seek advice as to whether your child could even do part of the school day. Arrange holidays outside of term time – holidays will only ever be authorised by the Headteacher in exceptional circumstances.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance I am very happy to discuss this with you. Please get in touch with the school for my details.

Hilary Weekes

Attendance Intervention Coordinator

South Bromsgrove High School · Stoke Prior First School · Millfields First School
Meadow's First School · Alvechurch Middle School · Aston Fields Middle School
Charford First School · Hanbury First School · Fininstall First School