



MAGHULL HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIALIST ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

All to: Aspire, Achieve, Enjoy

Headteacher: Mr M R Anderson BSc

Dear Parents,

We believe passionately that every school day matters in a child's education. There is ample research to show how crucial regular attendance is in ensuring children reach their full potential in our education system and develop into confident, well rounded adults who are equipped for life.

What is good attendance?

There are 190 school days each year. Every child should strive to be in every day. However, we recognise this is not always possible and set a school minimum target of 96%.

Can I take my child out of school for a holiday in term time?

Headteachers have the authority, in exceptional circumstances, to approve up to 5 school days in the course of an academic year for family holidays. This is done on an individual basis and the decision to approve will be based on the child's attendance over the last year. If there is a significant cause for concern with a child's attendance then the request for authorisation may be denied. All requests for term-time absence must be submitted in writing (or email) to the Headteacher.

What do I do if my child is absent from school?

Parents have a responsibility to inform the school if their child is absent and provide a valid reason for the absence. We encourage parents either to ring the school (0844 477 3438) or contact us via Connect Ed as early as possible **ON THE FIRST DAY OF ABSENCE**.

What about lateness?

The law states that parents are legally required to ensure their children attend school regularly and on time. Persistent lateness is dealt with in much the same way as irregular attendance. Persistent lateness can be every bit as harmful to a child's education as missing school. We encourage all children to be in school before 8:50am. The student is required to sign the Late Book at Reception if they have arrived after 9:10am.

How do we deal with persistent absence?

We like to keep parents informed about their child's attendance so we provide termly reports for every child from Year 7 to 11. We also make contact with parents and arrange meetings of children whose attendance is a cause for concern. The purpose of these meetings is to identify the reasons for persistent absence and to identify any support the school or outside agencies can give to ensure the child's attendance improves. In very rare cases, where there is significant and ongoing concern about a child's attendance, the school has a legal obligation to refer the matter to the Local Authority.

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What can I do as a parent?

As parents, we all want the very best for our children and key to this is a good education. We are proud of what we do for our pupils here at Maghull High School. We endeavour to provide educational experiences tailored to a child's developmental needs and which feed their interests, enthusiasm and specific abilities and talents.

For this to work, they need to be with us for as much of the journey as possible so we urge that, as parents you:

- ensure that your child arrives at school on time each day
- ensure that your child only misses school for reasons, which are unavoidable or justified, such as illness or days of religious observance
 - Always notify the school as soon as possible - preferably on the first morning of any absence
 - try to avoid booking family holidays during term-time
- talk to the school if you are concerned that your child may be reluctant to go to school.

If you would like to discuss your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the following members of staff:

Year 7- Miss Bowler (Assistant Progress Leader)

Year 8 & 9 – Miss Cordingley (Assistant Progress Leader)

Year 10 & 11 – Mrs Hart (Assistant Progress Leader)

Yours sincerely

Mr M Kay
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs R Watson
Pastoral Manager