

“No Excuses, No Exceptions. Every Learner, Every time”

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we strive to return to outstanding at The Hill it is vital that we work together to ensure that there is the very best education for our students. Working together, allows us to move forward at speed in the same direction. One of these things that we must work together on is your child's attendance. I am certain that you want the very best for your children, which makes me even more certain that you will support your child and the school by ensuring that they are in school daily.

The school's attendance last year was below that which is expected for primary children across the country, with last terms attendance being below 95%. We need to significantly raise this, this year to as close to 100% as possible. I know that this is a challenge, but believe that it is possible with the support of all. To support this we are going to be continuing with a whole range of positive rewards as well as some new incentives.

For Children

- Individual prizes for 100% attendance over the ½ term and term
- Names of students who have achieved an attendance of 98% or over from September – July placed into a draw for a prize (Last year a bike)
- Prizes for the highest attending class each week and term
- Rewards for the most improved attendance
- Chance to Gunge the Principal

For Parents/Carers

- Parents' names whose children have achieved an attendance of 98% or over from September – July placed into a draw (Last year a £100 voucher)
- Prize draw for parent whose child has the most improved attendance

We will also be carrying out

- Home visit on the second day of absence and subsequent days
- Phone calls home from the class teacher/Mrs Steed if your child is off sick to discuss missed learning
- Attendance meetings with Key Stage Leaders, Assistant Principal, Vice Principal and Principal, Education welfare officers.

In putting in all of this, we expect the students to be in school on a daily basis. I would much rather be ringing you and sending a child home because they have tried their best, but need to be at home, rather than them not coming in at all.

Remember, the school day starts at 8:55. This means that the children should be in class for this time ready to start. When late, children can often feel a little self-conscious walking into a classroom as everyone naturally turns to see who it is.

From my many conversations with you I know you want the best for your children. Helping them to improve their attendance is a good way to start.

Attendance

Improving attendance is a whole Academy initiative. Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility including parents, students and all members of Academy staff. The diamond highlights the Academy approach to attendance monitoring and intervention.

Attendance Groups

Green – Expected attendance

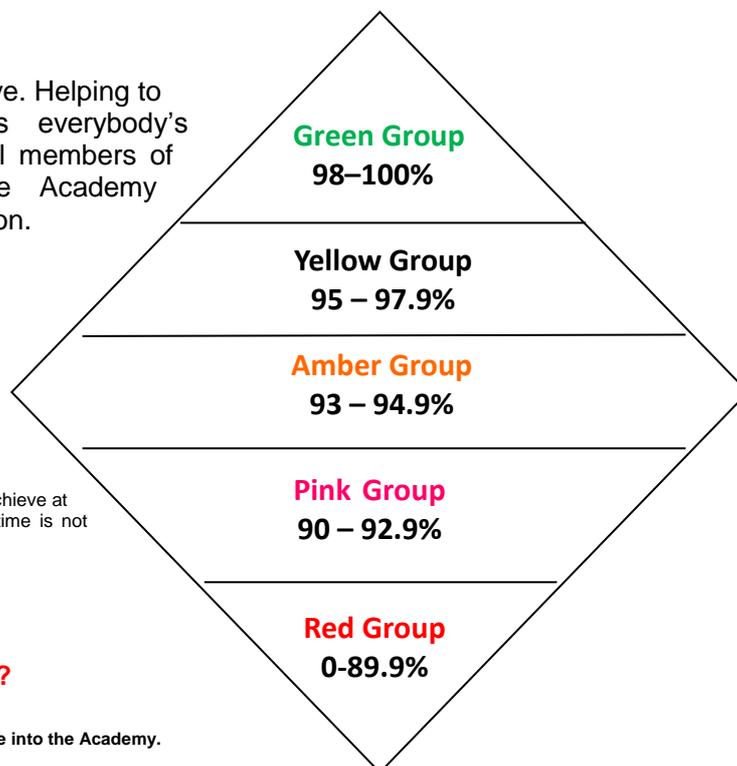
Yellow – Child is at risk of underachievement

Amber – Child is at serious risk of underachievement

Pink – Child is at severe risk of underachievement, court action is taken

Red – Child will be underachieving and court action is taken

Our Academy target for attendance is 98%. All students are expected to achieve at least 98%. Leave of absence for students requesting time off in term time is not permitted. Fines will be issued where appropriate.



Why does a child's attendance matter?

The tables below are a calculation of time lost when a child is absent or late into the Academy.

If your child arrives late daily by	Days of a child's education lost (yearly)	Days of a child's education lost (In Primary. 7 years)	Days of a child's education lost (in school life. 14 years)
5 minutes	3 days	21 days	42 days or half a term
10 minutes	6.5 days	45.5 days or a half term	91 days or half a year
15 minutes	10 days	70 days or a term	140 days or 2 terms
20 minutes	13 days	91 days or half a year	182 days or 1 year
30 minutes	19 days	133 days or 2 terms	266 days or 4 terms/1 year 1 term

If your child's attendance percentage is	Days/weeks of education lost (yearly)	Days of a child's education lost (In Primary over 7 years)	Days of a child's education lost (in school life over 14 years)
95%	10 days or 2 weeks	70 days or a term	140 days or 2 terms
90%	20 days or 4 weeks	140 days or 2 terms	280 days or 1 and half years
85%	30 days or 6 weeks	210 days or 1 year 20 days	420 days or 2 years 1 term
80%	A full half term	280 days or 1 and half years	560 days or 3 years
75%	Almost 10 weeks	350 days or 2 years	700 days or 4 years

When a child is absent from the Academy it also impacts on their social skills and self-esteem. A child returning after an absence often finds friends have moved on to other children. This affects their confidence and can make a child feel unhappy. When work is missed in the classroom children have learning gaps, this means a child struggles to catch up on their learning and will struggle to achieve. This again impacts on their self-esteem and confidence.

Good attendance means

- Children achieve more and are confident learners
- Friendships are made and kept
- Children are confident in their social skills
- When good patterns of attendance are established this helps with employment in later life
- Children learn to persist and to persevere
- Expectations are high and will impact on your children's children

Your child deserves the best start in life, please ensure they attend regularly.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sean Woolley
Principal