



Hipsburn Primary School, Lesbury, ALNWICK, Northumberland. NE66 3PX

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Headteacher Mr Kevin Moloney

10.10.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Hipsburn Primary School we aim to ensure that all children attend school regularly and on time. We also aim to improve the level and profile of attendance by raising awareness with families of the importance of regular attendance.

It is important children attend school because:

- attendance has a direct link to attainment. If a child is not in school regularly they are not fully accessing the curriculum and learning opportunities available to them
- achieving at school builds a child's self-esteem, as well as enhancing their future prospects
- attending school and being part of the school's community gives a child a sense of belonging and promotes their social development
- spending time with school staff teaches a child about society's expectations with regards to behaviour and how to communicate with people in authority preparing them for adult life
- attending school gives a child the opportunity to experience positive separation from their parent(s)/carer(s), which builds their confidence and resilience.

School education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Research clearly demonstrates the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment. Parent/carers and the school should work in partnership to make education a success and to ensure that all children have full and equal access to all that the school has to offer. As a school, we will encourage parents and carers to ensure that their child achieves maximum possible attendance and that any problems that prevent this are identified and acted upon promptly.



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL





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Since the COVID pandemic, several changes have taken place nationally involving the Government and the Department of Education, who have produced a new document 'Working together to improve school attendance.

The Law

The Education Act states that parents / carers must make sure their child(ren) gets a full-time education that meets their needs. If your child is enrolled their poor attendance can result in one or more of the following:

- a Parenting Order
- an Education Supervision Order
- a School Attendance Order
- a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice')

It is the Department of Education /Ofsted who dictate that attendance below 96% is poor and that below 90% is 'persistent absenteeism'. The reasons for this have been made clear. It is not the school's policy, but that of the Department for Education, to issue fines (also known as fixed penalties) for persistent absenteeism.

It is my duty as Headteacher to address poor attendance and the duty of my Governing Body to hold me accountable for it. Whilst the vast majority of parents at Hipsburn Primary School ensure their children attend school I cannot ignore the fact that attendance for some children, is below an acceptable level. Next week, I will share an updated school attendance policy, attendance procedures, the process to follow for a 'leave of absence request' and a model letter for low attendance from the local authority.

Thank you for your support,
Mr Kevin Moloney
Headteacher



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