

Dear Parents/Carers

July 2024

Changes to attendance monitoring in schools

I am writing to inform you of national changes to attendance monitoring in schools. From 19 August 2024, it will be mandatory for schools to link their Management Information System (MIS) to the DfE. This means that attendance data will be live-monitored rather than reported on in a termly census. Therefore unauthorised absences and the decision to fine parents for taking unauthorised absences during term time may well be taken away from the discretion of the school.

Therefore it seems a good time to remind everyone that, ensuring as close to 100% attendance at school is the single best thing you can do for your child, both academically and for their physical and mental wellbeing.

A student at the Royal Grammar School with 95% attendance will have missed almost 2 weeks of school, a child with 90% attendance at the end of this academic year will have missed approximately 4 weeks of schooling in that year alone; and a child with an end of year attendance of 80% will have missed approximately 8 weeks.

High attendance in school is essential for academic progress and to avoid learning gaps and/or misunderstandings. If a student has gaps or misunderstandings, this can, and does, affect mental wellbeing; such a student can feel uncertain and lacking in confidence and in turn, stay away from school even more.

Being in school is also the most helpful way to overcome any anxiety (social or otherwise) and for a child experiencing such anxieties to access the support needed. If you have any concerns about the attendance of your child or need support please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Durning
Assistant Head (Pastoral)