

12th September 2023

Etone College
www.etonecollege.co.uk

Dear Parent/ Carer

Attendance

As we begin another exciting academic year I would like to take this time to provide some key messages regarding attendance at Etone College.

As you will be aware, the best way for your child to make use of the opportunities at school is for them to be present each and every day. We would, therefore, expect that the start to the new year is a successful one for all our pupils. **A recent Department for Education report showed that children who miss 2 or more days of the new term for unauthorised reasons had a predicted overall absence of almost 45% (31 days) across the term.**

By being in school they are exposed to our enriched curriculum that ensures each and every pupil makes progress and prepares them for a successful future. Whilst I am proud that Etone College's attendance is above the national average, there is more to do. Our expectation is for children to have 100% attendance.

From the table below, you can see the impact that regular time off can have on a pupils education:

Attendance for ONE term	In ONE term your child will have missed	In a YEAR your child will have missed	In a YEAR your child will have missed
90% *PA	1 week 2 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
80% *PA	2 weeks 4 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
70% *PA	4 weeks 1 day	12 weeks	300 lessons

***PA – Where a pupil is absent for over 10% of their sessions this is classed as Persistently Absent. Research from the Department for Education shows that pupils in this category will have a significantly harder time achieve the same progress as those with good attendance.**

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are here to support your child throughout their education. It is therefore important that if you are aware of any barriers to your child's attendance, you communicate with us so we can work with you in removing these. By working together we can ensure your child's education is a successful one.

Where illness is a concern we would like to remind you that the **NHS advises that it is fine to send children to school with a minor cough or cold** provided they don't have a temperature. It is during these times that our pupils show the **resilience that embodies the Etone Learner** along with the importance they place on their own education.

In the spirit of working together we would like to share some of our own guidance and support along with that which is available from external stakeholders.

Attendance and Punctuality Guide: Designed to be easy to read and navigate to provide advice and important information about why attendance matters at Etone and the detrimental impact of missing time in school for unnecessary reasons. You can find the link here: <https://shorturl.at/puyU6>

Attendance and Punctuality Webpage: Hosts our regular updates and news stories here: <https://shorturl.at/eloNO>

Attendance Policy: Which should answer any potential questions: <https://shorturl.at/cfnqz>



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Department for Education: Information detailing support available to parents and the responsibilities to ensure your child attends school regularly: <https://shorturl.at/ilWZ1>

NHS guidance: Advising parents how to assess your child's wellness to attend school: <https://shorturl.at/tMOV9>

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you in advance for your support this year in ensuring your child achieves excellent attendance. We look forward to celebrating the rewards and successes they will receive as a result of this.

Kind Regards,



Mr I Smith
Headteacher



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