



Sheldon School

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10th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Further to the Headteacher's letter home in the summer term, I am writing to update you on the processes and policy for attendance. As I am sure many of you will be aware, the government has started a focus on attendance at school, as there has been a drop in national school attendance following the global pandemic. Good attendance at school is deemed to be where the student is present for at least 96% of the time. When a student drops below 90%, this is persistent absence from school. 90% attendance means that the student is missing the equivalent to one day of school per fortnight. We have a number of attendance stages, designed to support students and parents when attendance starts to become a concern. These are detailed in our school attendance policy. This can be found here

<https://www.sheldonschool.co.uk/assets/Documents/Policies/Attendance-policy-January-2024.pdf>

Below is a link to a letter from the Wiltshire Council Education Welfare Service, giving full details of fixed penalty notices and when these can be used. Please note that the school is expected to report to the Education Welfare Service when a student takes unauthorised holidays in term time. This is likely to result in a fixed penalty being issued. Full details are in their letter. Equally if a student accrues unauthorised absences from school for other reasons, a fixed penalty notice can also be issued in this situation. Full details are in the letter here <https://www.sheldonschool.co.uk/assets/Documents/Letters/2024-2025/Wiltshire-Council-letter-for-parents-attendance-changes.pdf>

There is a significant amount of evidence to show that good attendance at school gives students much better chances of success in their examinations. In the recent cohort, those students that were persistently absent (below 90%) performed nearly a grade lower than their expected grade, in each subject on average. The students that were not persistently absent performed better than their expected grades, on average.

The Pastoral Leads and Year Heads will be taking a lead role in promoting and encouraging good attendance. Working closely with parents is key to this. If you have any questions or concerns over attendance, please make contact with either the Year Head or Pastoral Lead for your child's year group.

Many thanks for your support.

Yours faithfully

John Rumble
Assistant Headteacher