

Pupil Attendance at Limehurst Primary School - Autumn Term 1



We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome back to school to all our pupils and families, both returning and new!

As we enter a new academic year, pupil attendance continues to be a high priority at Limehurst. In our Summer Term Attendance Newsletter, we advised parents that new legislation regarding pupil attendance was due to come into force.

From September, the DFE's 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' has become statutory guidance for all schools in England. The document can be accessed on the GOV.UK website, via the link below - www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance.

All school Headteacher's have now received a statutory update from the Department for Education, emphasising the importance of school attendance. As a result, schools are under increased pressure to collaborate with parents and all stakeholders to improve attendance.

What do the changes mean for Parents & Carers?

With effect from August 19th, the Government have introduced new rules and have increased fines for pupils missing school. These include;

- ✚ There will be a single National Threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of any type of unauthorised absence - this basically means that once a child has 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days or more), within a 10-week period, they will be issued with a penalty notice.

With the above in mind, kindly be aware that if your child reaches stage 2 of our attendance monitoring process, they will be added to our attendance monitoring list and their attendance will be regularly monitored by the Local Authority Attendance Team.

All pupils who reach stage 2 require medical evidence to authorise ANY absences. If you do not provide medical evidence for their absence, their non-attendance will be marked as unauthorised, even if you contact school to advise us of their reason for absence. Once your child has reached 10 missed sessions (5 days), a penalty notice will be issued by the Local Authority.

Prior to your child reaching stage 2 absence monitoring, you will receive a notification letter from our school.

- ✚ **The fine for unauthorised school absences for 5 days or more** across the country will be increasing to **£80** if paid within 21 days, or **£160** if paid within 28 days. This is a fine per parent, per child.
- ✚ In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of **£160**. This is a fine per parent, per child.
- ✚ For a third offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within a 3-year period, parents will be taken to Magistrates' Court. Prosecution can lead to a criminal record and fines of up to **£2,500** per parent, per child. If found guilty, this would appear on a DBS certificate for 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

We recognise that, particularly given the current financial climate, these regulations may not be well-received by parents. However, we work closely with the Oldham Council School Attendance Team and must adhere to Government regulations. Our goal is to support you and your child in developing good habits and ensuring they have the best opportunity to succeed in school. If you require any advice or support with your child's attendance please contact the school office, who can arrange an appointment with a member of our attendance team.

The Government drive to improve pupil attendance means your child's attendance is more important than ever and we urge you to support our school and your child's education, by ensuring they attend school during term time. Please note that our school attendance policy can be found on our website.

Support & Action

Our attendance statistics for the last academic year evidenced that pupils at Limehurst are attending school less frequently than pupils in other local and national schools. As a result, we have now launched our Attendance Improvement Project. **As parents and carers your role will be pivotal in the success of the project.** By ensuring your child attends school every day you can support us in our mission to improve pupil attendance and reduce persistent absenteeism in our school.

As part of our improving attendance project, we aim to create a positive attendance culture by ;

- + **Parent / Carer meetings** - We will hold more attendance meetings with parents & Carers. These meetings aim to create personalised attendance action plans for ALL pupils whose attendance falls below expectations.
- + **Support Early Intervention** - If your child faces difficulties attending school, please get in touch with us. We're here to support you and together we can look for solutions.
- + **Sharing regular updates** - we will be sharing insights, tips and success stories via our website, email and social media channels.
- + **Celebrating good attendance** - we will be positively rewarding good attendance and attendance improvement. This includes termly prize draws to win 'Children's Love2shop' vouchers for all pupils who have had 100% attendance within the term & annual prizes for all pupils with 100% attendance all year! We hope to see lots of pupils receiving attendance awards this year!

What to do When...

- + **Your child has a medical appointment mid-morning which cannot be changed** - Bring them into school in the morning, collect them just before the appointment and bring them back to school straight afterwards. Show the office staff evidence of the appointment (letter/email or text).
- + **Your child says they feel unwell but are showing no other signs of illness** - Bring them into school but let us know - we will inform you if we feel they need to be collected.
- + **Your child has a sickness / upset stomach bug** - Keep them off school for 48 hours from the last episode of sickness.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is a great way to promote punctuality and start your child's day in a positive way.

Breakfast club sessions are priced at £1 per day. You have flexibility in how you book and pay for these sessions:

- Monthly: Reserve slots for the entire month.
- Weekly: Book sessions for specific weeks.
 - Daily: Book on a day-by-day basis.

You can book your child into a session up to 8:15am on the same day, using the School Comms app.

We look forward to working together to improve pupil attendance at Limehurst and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive!

Let's Make Everyday Count!