

8th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Attendance Expectations Summer Term 2024

We have recently sent out a parent survey with regards to Attendance at Ernulf. I would like to thank all of you, who have taken the time to complete this and share your feedback.

This is useful information, and we will use your feedback to try to improve attendance within the school. We here at Ernulf Academy, give high priority to improving school attendance and punctuality and it is reassuring to know, that you as parents also feel the same way.

To answer some of the questions that you may not know the answer to:

Our expectation is that students aim for an **Attendance Target of 97%**.

If a student's attendance falls below 90%, they are classed as Persistently Absent.

Data shows us that children's academic results are negatively affected by missing time in school. This can also have a negative effect on their mental health and well-being.

To find out what your child's attendance is, you can use the MCAS app. This will also be updated on your child's termly report. If you have more serious concerns about your child's attendance, you can contact the school office, Head of Year or Attendance Officer, in school.

All school absences are to be reported daily via the MCAS app, email or via the telephone line. Answer machine messages can be left. If we do not hear from a parent, truancy messages will be sent out. Phone calls can be made and if necessary, we are authorised to carry out Safe and Well checks to the home. If we have concerns about your child's attendance, we will be in touch to discuss this further.

We do ask that any appointments for your child are arranged outside of normal school hours, however we also appreciate that sometimes this is not possible. If you can provide us with the necessary details (i.e. Dental Appointment Letter) we will update your child's attendance record accordingly.

It is unlikely that holidays during term time will be authorised, but we do ask that any time off is requested via a Term Time Absence Request Form (these can be collected from the School Office) as these are passed to the Headteacher for review.

With regards to the school gates and punctuality, the gates are open between 8.25am – 8.35am. Any student arriving after 8.35am, will be registered as late and this could result in a sanction. If there is a genuine reason for this lateness, please ensure you contact the school office to provide this reason Office@astreaernulf.org.

We appreciate that times have changed and there are more worries about children's anxieties and mental health than ever before. If you feel your child requires any support in this area, it is important that you do let us know and we can signpost to the appropriate support.

The same applies for any medical condition, or anything else that may have an impact on your child attending school.

In our experience good communication between school and home is crucial and early intervention is key to resolving issues swiftly.

Nessie is a Local Authority run organisation that can help support parents and young people in the local area. They also offer a range of webinars for parents and carers that you may find useful. <https://nessieined.com/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-parents>

For anyone experiencing any issues affecting their child's attendance, you are welcome to contact me directly either via email or phone Julie.keane@astreaernulf.org.

I would be happy to arrange time to speak with you either over the phone or face to face, whichever is most suitable.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



J Keane

Attendance and Admissions Officer

