



St Augustine of Canterbury


ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL


Christus Heri, Hodie, Semper


St Augustine's school are working hard to improve the attendance of our children. One way of doing this is to inform all parents and carers of their child's current attendance and give a short explanation on what attendance means to each child.

It is our expectation that children that attend here should have an attendance figure of **97%** or above. Please refer to our school website where you will find our attendance policy should you require further information.

We follow Lancashire County Councils attendance policies and they categorise attendance into 3 sections as shown below-

 GREEN means that your child is achieving 97% or more attendance and there is no cause for concern

 AMBER means that your child is achieving between 91 – 97% attendance and this is slightly concerning

 RED means that your child has fallen under 91% attendance and this is a cause for concern

Research by the Department of Education shows that:

- If a child's attendance improves then so does the academic ability
- 90% attendance is the same as missing $\frac{1}{2}$ a school day per week every week, or a month in one school year. This will highly likely impact of your child's learning and progress
- Taking 10 days out for a family holiday without having any other days off puts your child at 94.7% for the year
- If a child misses an average of 1 day a week for the whole of their education this is equivalent to missing 2 years of schooling.





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Whilst we recognise that every child's attendance reflects on their own unique circumstances, if your child is in the red section, we urge you to try and improve their attendance. If there are specific barriers that contribute, please contact school and arrange an appointment with myself and Mrs. McCormick (Attendance Officer). I would like to also remind you that we require medical evidence in the form of letters, emails, and notes for all medical appointments and where necessary we may ask you to provide evidence of your child's illness if they are absent from school for more than 2 days.

Please note that if your child's attendance continues to be persistently low, this is a cause for concern. Therefore, if they remain in the red section next half term we will invite you into school to address the matter. If no improvement is made, we will consider a referral to the Local Authority Pupil Attendance Support Team and the School Nurse, and we will require medical evidence for each further absence. If this is not received the absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

The parents of children who regularly miss school without a valid reason may be subject to a penalty notice issued by the Local Authority, in accordance with their Code of Conduct. The criteria for a penalty notice is 5 or more days (10 school sessions) of unauthorised absence per term or 7 days (14 sessions) over 2 consecutive terms.

