

Cottingham Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Ashley Scott

Berryfield Road
Cottingham
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 8XB

01536 771391
www.cottinghamprimary.co.uk

office@cottingham.pdet.org.uk
@CottinghamCofE
@CottinghamCofE
Cottingham CofE Primary School
@CottinghamCofE

26th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Attendance

Attendance at Cottingham CofE Primary School is currently below 95%, which invariably affects our children's wellbeing and progress. You can find our [Attendance Policy here](#).

In the drive to improve this, and as mentioned in newsletters previously, you will now be notified by email if your child's attendance is causing concern. The first letters were sent out last term and will be sent at the end of each half term. Our aim is for children to attend school with a minimum of 96%.

Should your child's attendance be consistently low (below 95%), we may offer support through an Attendance Improvement Plan and use this to look at any underlying issues and ways in which we can support you in helping your child to maintain regular attendance. Please note, the DfE define Persistent Absence as attendance below 90%. 'A persistent absentee is defined as a student who has 10% or more absence.'

Safeguarding legislation (KCSIE 2023) now also includes failure to attend school regularly as a form of neglect, stating neglect includes failure to 'provide a suitable education'. Currently 13.7% of our Cottingham CofE children are classed as Persistent Absentees, and we urge all of our parents to send children to school, with the intention of achieving a minimum of 96% attendance.

The following information may also be useful to you:

Is my child too ill for school?

Recent research has shown that since the pandemic, people's attitudes toward illnesses have changed with many more people staying off work and keeping children off school for any degree of illness. This is understandable given our experiences of the pandemic. However, this has impacted school attendance nationwide. Sometimes, it can be difficult to make the decision whether to send your child to school when under the weather. The link below will hopefully offer some reassurance as to when it is okay to send your child in to school. If your child is under the weather but fine to come in, just let us know and we will keep an extra close eye on them. We will always contact you should they start to feel worse. Whilst a child may need

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to stay off at the peak of a non-contagious illness because they feel too unwell, they should ideally start back as soon as symptoms are milder <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Why does attendance matter?

Research has also shown that higher attendance levels correlate with higher achievement in learning and lower attendance correlates with lower achievement outcomes. A child's academic outcome will determine a child's future prospects, opportunities and quality of life and reduce negative risks in life. A large amount of learning takes place during an average day in schools, so when a week or two is missed that is a huge amount of learning lost. Learning in primary settings acts as scaffolding for later learning, so missed learning at an early age can impact on a child's later learning. Below is an article outline the importance of attendance on learning <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>

Thank you for supporting us to improve attendance at our school. I am always happy to receive feedback and welcome discussions etc. The letter/email that is sent out is a pre-populated form used within the Trust. Apologies if the wording causes any distress as it is not intended to do so. If you receive the letter/email and you know that your child was too ill/poorly or had other medical reasons for example, then the letter/email is to be read as a reminder. If the letter/email asks that you contact the school to arrange a meeting, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Mr Scott

Mr Ashley Scott (Headteacher)

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