



Information for Parents



Attendance Statement

It is essential that children and young people form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career. St Mary's Catholic First School is committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

St Mary's Catholic First School has agreed the following:

- St Mary's Catholic First School will monitor the attendance of our pupils and work closely with Dorset County Council's School Attendance Service to support children and young people whose attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child's health continues to affect their education, schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided.
- If a child is ill it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school. DASP schools all operate a targeted "First Day Call" system, which means they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return.
- No Leave of Absence will be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances.
- We are therefore informing parents/carers that, should you wish to take your child out of school for any leave of absence, holidays or otherwise, requests will not be routinely granted. It is essential that any requests for leave of absence are discussed with your child's Head Teacher prior to the request being made. Any absence which has not been authorised by your child's school will be recorded as "unauthorised" and this has the potential to impact on your child's overall absence figure and could result in legal action.
- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education it is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates. St Mary's Catholic First School is committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve, and recognises that good attendance is central to this.