

Date: 08/02/2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Recognising the significance of consistent school attendance for the educational and overall well-being of your children, we wish to share important information with you.

It is inevitable that, at times, children may experience mild illnesses. In such instances, it is crucial to determine whether they should attend school or stay at home. According to the guidelines provided by the Department for Education (DfE), it is generally acceptable for pupils to attend school with minor respiratory ailments, such as a mild cough, runny nose, or sore throat.

If uncertainty arises, we recommend consulting the NHS guidance available at: NHS Guidance

In the event that your child is at school and begins to feel unwell, please be assured that we have designated spaces and trained staff to provide immediate assistance. Our primary objective is to support your child's learning, which may occasionally involve them remaining in school despite feeling unwell. If your child reports feeling unwell, they may visit the attendance office accompanied by an adult. We will promptly contact you to communicate their condition. Unless the illness is severe, we seek your cooperation in allowing the pupil to remain in school to ensure continuity in their education. It is important to note that pupils should not directly contact home to seek permission to leave, as this may present a safeguarding concern.

Additionally, moving forward, FCAT have made the decision that we will not be sending pupils home unattended. If a pupil is unwell and needs to go home, they will need to be collected by an adult whose contact details are on our school system. If a pupil is too ill to be in school, it is important that there is an adult at home to care for them.

Post-pandemic, we recognise the mental health challenges some pupils may face. Mild or moderate anxiety can be a normal part of growing up. Extended absences from school can exacerbate these anxieties. Should your child experience mental health issues, the DfE has published guidance that you may find valuable: <u>DfE Mental</u> <u>Health Guidance</u>. We encourage pupils with persistent symptoms to seek additional support.

We appreciate your support with pupil attendance. If you need any further support to remove barrier to attendance please do not hesitate to contact us at <u>attendance@aspire.fcat.org.uk</u>

Kind regards

Mr J Woods Headteacher

> Blackpool Aspire Academy, Blackpool Old Road, Blackpool FY3 7LS Headteacher: Mr. J. Woods Tel: (01253) 353155 Fax: (01253) 500397 Email: admin@aspire.fcat.org.uk Web page: www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk

Fylde Coast Academy Trust Company Limited by Guarantee Number 8364709 Registered in England & Wales Registered Office: C/o Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool FY4 4RR