



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

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Headteacher:
Andrew Finn

September 8, 2025

Dear parent/Carer,

We want all of our students to have the maximum chance at achieving their potential at school, this includes in sport, Music, pastoral areas as well as in their academic achievements.

School returned on Wednesday 3rd September this week but unfortunately your child has not arrived back in school or has missed at least one session. Thank you if you have contacted us to let us know the reasons. However, it is important for us to contact you to let you know the impact that non-attendance at school can have.

First of all, it has been shown that if a student misses any time in the first week of school, they are twice as likely to have an absence rate of less than 90% for the rest of the year.

Secondly, we know that students with less than 93% attendance have less than a 50% chance of achieving 5 good GCSE results in year 11. Each day in school is vital if your child is to achieve their potential.

Finally, the law on attendance has changed in the last two years. Anyone who takes unauthorised term time leave or has more than 10 missing sessions over a 10-week period will face a penalty notice of £80 per parent, per child. This will rise to £180 if a second penalty notice is issued within 3 years. If there is a third period of absence, this will then be taken to court.

A recent BBC news article reiterated the government's position on this matter. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg7jk3rr225o>

Our aim is that every child achieves at least a 97% attendance. If your child attends from Monday, this will be achievable, beyond that, it will become very difficult.

If you wish to discuss the reasons further, please email us on info@littleilford.org and the appropriate person will contact you. If you have not yet let us know of the reason for absence or when your child is returning, you must ensure that this is done as soon as possible or your child's place at school is in jeopardy. I may also be inviting you later this term to meet with the borough attendance service.

Regards,

Mr K. Burke
Assistant Headteacher for Attendance

*For Information - Failure to ensure regular and punctual school attendance may result in the issuing of a penalty notice under **Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003** and /or prosecution under **section 444 of the Education Act 1996***