Maryport Church of England Primary School

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‘Learn, achieve, shine’

Attendance Matters

It is very important that children attend school regularly. The link between school attendance and attainment in school is clear. Research shows that children who attend school regularly are more likely to be successful. The more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential. Missing school leads to gaps in education that become difficult to fill.

We will always try to work closely in partnership with our families to support their child's learning and to overcome any barriers that prevent good attendance.

We are required to keep and monitor records of attendance, absence and lateness and this data is submitted to the Local Authority. Our target attendance figure, set by the Local Authority, is 95%+. As of the end of the Autumn term, our overall attendance was 94.92% - just short of our target. When broken down into year groups, this was as follows –

Nursery - 95.47%

Rec - 91.37%

Y1 - 95.7%

Y2 - 95.77%

Y3 - 94.87%

Y4 - 95.19%

Y5 - 95.07%

Y6 - 96.1%

 In particular, we need to stress how important it is that you don't take holidays in term time as it disrupts your child's learning. In keeping with the Local Authority directive we will not authorise term-time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances.

An analysis of last terms figures shows that **56 children** had an absence recorded as an unauthorised holiday which equated to **284 days** of missed school! Unauthorised absences from school carry the risk of prosecution under section 444 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996.

 If a child’s individual absence falls below 90% and there is no sustained improvement the school will consider a referral to the LA access and inclusion team. Should the child’s attendance fail to improve, the Access and Inclusion Team will consider the use of legal sanctions and may in accordance with the Prosecution Policy decide to prosecute the parent(s) for failing to ensure regular school attendance.

For further information, please visit <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/ils/attendance.asp>