

## Springfield Primary Academy

Springwood Crescent, Grimsby, N E Lincolnshire, DN33 3HG

Tel: 01472 230260

Email: [office@springfieldacademy.net](mailto:office@springfieldacademy.net)

Website: [www.springfieldprimaryacademy.net](http://www.springfieldprimaryacademy.net)

Principal: Mrs T Storr



Care, Collaboration, Challenge

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Important changes to School Attendance and Absences

The Department for Education have shared with schools and Local Authorities changes to attendance guidance. These changes must be made by **all** schools and Local Authorities across the country. At Springfield, we believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

### Illness

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.



# Should I keep my child off school?

## Yes

|  | Until...   |
|--|--|
| Chickenpox                                     | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over  |
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting                         | 48 hours after their last episode  |
| Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19. |
| Impetigo                                       | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics  |
| Measles  | 4 days after the rash first appeared   |
| Mumps  | 5 days after the swelling started  |
| Scabies  | they've had their first treatment  |
| Scarlet Fever                                  | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics   |
| Whooping Cough                                 | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics   |

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
| Head lice            | Tonsillitis     |
| Threadworms          | Slapped cheek   |



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfoc>.

## **A new National Framework for attendance Penalty Notices**

This will include holidays and irregular attendance. Where a child is absent and it is believed they are not poorly, we are expected to carry out a home visit and see the child face to face.

It is therefore important to notify school every day that your child is absent, providing a reason, and where appropriate evidence of medical appointments or prescribed medication.

**Fines for missing school – Please note a 3<sup>rd</sup> offence within a 3-year period will lead straight to prosecution**

### **First offence**

The first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or low attendance will be:

£80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days  
£160 per parent per child when paid within 28 days



### **Second offence**

(within a 3 year period)

£160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days



### **Third offence**

(further offences within a 3 year period)

The 3rd time a penalty notice is issued the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court. Fines of up to £2500 per parent per child can be issued.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates Court can show up on parents future DBS certificates as a failure to safeguard a child's education.

All schools are now required to request a fine when a child has missed 5 or more consecutive days or 10 sessions\* (5 days) or more of school for unauthorised reasons in a 10-week period. Inset days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days if there was intent to be absent.

Penalty notice fines will be issued to each parent (including step parents), for each child who is absent from school without permission or good reason.

The school day is split into two sessions – one session counts as a morning or afternoon spent in school.

#### **What YOU must do:**

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

#### **What WE will do:**

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.
- If we are informed siblings are ill together, we will make a welfare home visit.
- Inform parents half termly of their child's attendance % and, if required, write to parents or invite parents in to discuss working together to raise their child's attendance.

Please appreciate my office staff will be expected to ask more questions about leave and as a school we will phone or visit your home if needed. At present we have parents who do not ring school when their child is absent, and we will be more suspicious if siblings are off together. Please remember the staff are only doing their job and it is important we know where all our children are.

Thank you

T. Storr

Principal