

# ATTENDANCE

## EVERY DAY COUNTS!



**WOMBWELL HIGH SCHOOL**

**A HUMANITIES COLLEGE**

School attendance plays an important role in your child's education and here at Wombwell High School we expect students to have an overall attendance figure of at least 95% for the school year.

In order for students to access their education to their full potential and gain qualifications for their future they need to be in school every day.

Every day is a learning day.

Below is a table to show how seriously your child's attendance is affected by continued absence from school.

OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR YEAR	SCHOOL DAYS MISSED
100%	0
95%	10 (TWO SCHOOL WEEKS)
90%	20 (FOUR SCHOOL WEEKS)
85%	30 (SIX SCHOOL WEEKS)
80%	40 (EIGHT SCHOOL WEEKS)

All pupils are expected to achieve at least 95% at Wombwell High School only then can they reach their potential.

Poor attendance is unacceptable and will not be ignored. The Law states that it is parents/carers responsibility to ensure their children attend school daily and on time and failure to do this could lead to prosecution.

Wombwell High School has a dedicated attendance team working in partnership with parents to achieve consistent high levels of attendance. If you would like to discuss any attendance issues please contact Ms Oliver on 01226 274809 or e mail [s.oliver@barnsley.org](mailto:s.oliver@barnsley.org)

Opposite is a summary of the process Wombwell High School will follow when working with families whose children have poor and unsatisfactory attendance levels.

PARENTS/CARERS MUST INFORM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE EACH TIME A CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL. A RECORD OF THE REASON FOR ABSENCE WILL BE RECORDED.

THE ATTENDANCE OFFICER WILL MONITOR STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE CLOSELY TO ENSURE A HIGH LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE IS MAINTAINED

IF A STUDENT'S LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE STARTS TO FALL, A LETTER OF CONCERN WILL BE SENT TO THE PARENT/CARER INFORMING THEM OF THEIR CHILD'S CURRENT ATTENDANCE LEVEL AND THEIR NEED TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS

THE ATTENDANCE OFFICER WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR STUDENTS ATTENDANCE CLOSELY

IF THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT TO A STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE THE ATTENDANCE OFFICER WILL ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL WITH PARENTS/ CARERS TO DISCUSS ATTENDANCE ISSUES.

IF AFTER A FURTHER MONITORING PERIOD THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT IN ATTENDANCE, PARENTS/CARERS WILL BE INVITED INTO SCHOOL TO EXPLAIN THEIR CHILD'S POOR ATTENDANCE WITH AN ATTENDANCE PANEL WHICH COULD CONSIST OF: ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER, ATTENDANCE OFFICER, SCHOOL NURSE AND THE EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER.

NO FURTHER ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL WILL BE AUTHORISED. IF AT THIS STAGE THERE IS STILL NO IMPROVEMENT IN STUDENTS ATTENDANCE THE CASE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE WITH A VIEW TO PROSECUTION

### **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

According to statistics from the DfES, around 7.5 million school days are lost each year through truancy, with up to 50,000 children skipping school every day.

In recent 'Truancy Sweeps' in shopping centres and popular hangout areas, like leisure centres, the police, together with the Education Welfare Services, discovered that over half the pupils truanting were with one or both of their parents. As a result, the Government is cracking down not just on the children themselves, but also their guardians.

Many parents think that an occasional day off won't hurt. But the fact is, not sending your children to school is a criminal offence, which carries a fine of up to £2,500, a jail sentence up to 3 months or a community sentence or a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Any absences from school without a valid reason will be recorded as unauthorised. Ten half days or more of unauthorised absence may lead to a fixed penalty fine of £50 being issued by the Local Education Authority.

It is one of the few areas of the law where you can get into trouble for something you have not done yourself. While your 16 year old may be old enough to marry and face criminal prosecution for offences they commit, if they bunk off school, you are the one who faces jail – not them.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Bill recently introduced parenting contracts, which outline the steps that schools and the Local Education Authorities will take to tackle truancy. The Bill includes powers to issue £100 on the spot fines for truants.

### **LATE EVERY DAY???**

The Local Education Authority can also take you to court if your child is often late to school, but usually, they will apply for an Education Supervision Order, which allows them to give help and instructions about schooling which you must follow.