

Curdworth Primary School
Farthing Lane
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B76 9HF
Headteacher: Mrs L. Dodd
Telephone: 01675470379
Email: admin2502@welearn365.com

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Revised Attendance Policy and Procedures

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Curdworth Primary School we place an emphasis on the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. We believe through good attendance at school children will achieve higher attainment, have better opportunities and establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives.

We understand that there may be unavoidable circumstances on occasions when your child is absent from school and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the school absence procedures.

Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS) now supports school with the processes associated with children's attendance including legal monitoring services. CSAWS will also provide support to help reduce the number of persistently absent pupils and improve whole school attendance.

Illness:

Occasionally, your child may wake up on a school day and say that they feel unwell. Parents will assess and decide if they think their child is well enough to attend school or needs to be kept at home. If your child has no temperature but has a cough, cold, headache or earache then (as with adults) medical advice is to give them paracetamol (Calpol, etc) and send them to school. We will always contact you if your child's condition worsens or if we believe it is contagious such as chicken pox, vomiting, etc. If you're not sure if your child's illness is classed as infectious or whether they need to be kept off school and for how long then contact the school office who will offer advice and information.

If you decide that your child is unable to attend school due to illness the following procedure applies:

- If a child is absent from school parents should contact the school on the 1st day of absence by **9.30am** to inform the school of the reason for absence.
- Parents are expected to maintain contact with the school throughout the absence.

It is a school's decision whether to accept a reason for a child's absence and whether to authorise that absence. In the majority of cases a parents' note explaining that their child was ill can be accepted without question. Further evidence of a child's illness may be requested if their attendance is an ongoing concern.

Medical and Dental Appointments:

- Where possible such appointments should be booked outside of school hours
- When a pupil has a medical or dental appointment this should be confirmed with an appointment card or letter
- Pupils are expected to attend school prior to the appointment and return to school after the appointment. Any absence outside of the appointment/travel time will be unauthorised
- Authorisation will not be given for pupils to attend family member's medical appointments

Unexplained absences:

Unexplained absences from school give serious cause for concern as the school is unable to confirm the whereabouts and safety of a child. In the instance of unexplained absence the following procedures will apply:

- At 9.30 am the school registers are checked for any absences where there has been no contact by parents/carers or reason given
- School staff will attempt to make telephone contact with parents/carers to ascertain a reason for the child's absence from school
- If the parent/carer cannot be contacted, then school staff will contact the other emergency contacts for the child
- If staff are unable to contact parents/carers or other emergency contacts or ascertain the reasons for a child absence this may be followed by a home visit by either members of school staff or Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Officer
- As we have a safeguarding duty for our pupils, it is essential that we know where all our pupils are during the school day and where we are unable to ascertain this it may be necessary to contact the police to undertake a safe and well check
- **School is required to have more than one emergency contact for each pupil – please ensure the school has up-to-date addresses and telephone numbers for all contacts**

Persistent absence and unauthorised absence.

We take a proactive approach to improving the attendance of individual children whose attendance falls below 96%. Children who have less than 90% attendance are classed by the Department for Education as persistently absent. We will communicate concerns about poor attendance to parents and use an escalating approach including letters, meetings in school and/or a referral to the Central School Attendance Welfare Service Officer, in order to support parents in improving attendance. Where attendance is a concern we will work with parents to agree actions plans to improve attendance.

Where children have attendance below 85% for a six week period, there are unauthorised absences and there is no improvement in attendance we will refer to the Local Authority Statutory Service for consideration of legal action. This can include:

- Written warning letters
- The issue of Penalty Notices (£60 per parent per child, increasing to £120 per parent per child if not paid within 21 days)
- Prosecution for non-school attendance

Parents can support regular school attendance by:

- Making sure their child leaves for school early enough to arrive at school on time
- Supporting and encouraging their child by attending parents evenings and other events
- Contacting the school to discuss any concerns regarding their child's attendance
- Working in partnership with the school to resolve any issues that are impacting on their child's attendance
- Making any medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible
- Not taking children out of school for holidays in term time or for other unnecessary reasons

If you would like more information regarding the schools approach to securing good school attendance, please see the school website for the attendance policy and procedures.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter please contact Mrs Dodd via the school office.

We thank you for your support and co operation in helping us to continue to secure and raise school attendance for all children at Curdworth Primary School.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Lisa Dodd
Headteacher