



St Michael's CE (VC) Primary School
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Dear Parent/Carer

As you know we make school attendance a priority at St Michael's so that we can ensure that your children are receiving the very best opportunity to achieve their full potential.

From September there will be a greater pressure around school attendance as the Department for Education is setting new expectations for pupil attendance and changes to the Persistent Absence threshold. The government is committed to reducing absence and expects every pupil to maintain an attendance level above 96%.

The persistent absence threshold will increase to 90% (previously 85%). This will mean that any pupil whose attendance is lower than 90% at any point in the school year will be classed as Persistently Absent.

The table below shows the impact of lost learning hours in one school year.

Descriptor	Attendance	Lost hours of Learning
Excellent	100%-99%	0 -10
Good	98%-96%	20 -37.5
Requires Improvement	95%-91%	47.5 - 85
Persistent Absence	86%-90%	95 -135
Critical & PA	85%-80%	142.5 -190

Our expectations for your children are high and we need them to be in school as often as possible, therefore we would like to take this opportunity to remind you to please make appointments outside of school hours (wherever possible) and make sure your children are in school on time. Whilst it is appreciated that children are unwell from time to time, please think carefully before allowing your child to be absent from school.

We wish to work positively with parents when we have concerns regarding their child's attendance. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Goodall who is our School Attendance Lead.

Yours faithfully

R Kennedy
 Head Teacher

