

Attendance Statement for Parents.

The governors feel that parents should be aware of the changes to attendance/absence policy that the Government has brought in. Mrs Woods wrote to parents last summer outlining the new system for absence. In fact the only real change is with regard to holidays in term time.

There are two types of absence, **authorised and unauthorised**.

Authorised absence includes:

A morning or afternoon session away from school for a good reason such as illness,
Medical/dental appointments (but we hope that parents will try to make these outside school time),
Emergencies or unavoidable events (e.g. family bereavements).

For all of these an explanation for the absence from the child's parent is required.

Unauthorised absence includes:

Parents keeping children away from school unnecessarily,
Truancy,
Unexplained absence,
Persistent lateness (exceptions will be made if the school bus is delayed),
Shopping trips,
Day trips and holidays in school time.

The new regulations have removed the discretion that Headteachers have had regarding holidays in term time. They will be classed as unauthorised. Sanctions are possible but they have yet to be outlined to schools.

September 2013.