

THE WEY VALLEY SCHOOL

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Vice Principals :

Mr S P Dyer B.A Hons

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Information for all parents and carers on the importance of attendance and the Attendance Process

Dear Parent or Carer

The Wey Valley School is committed to ensuring the best for all our learners to support children and families. All schools are working very hard to promote good attendance and have common systems in place to work with families when attendance drops below an acceptable level.

You will be aware of the importance of good school attendance in improving a young person's chance of success in life and in establishing positive attitudes to lifelong learning. There is clear evidence of the link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Of pupils nationally who miss between 10% and 20% of school, only 35% achieved acceptable pass grades (Grade 1-4 equivalents) in English and mathematics, but 75% of pupils who attend 95% of school achieved this.

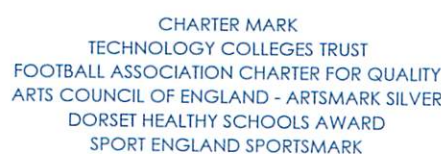
If a child has an attendance level of below 95 % this means they will have missed an average of one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year this will represent four weeks of absence. If this level of absence were maintained for a five year period it would mean half a school year would have been missed.

If we are concerned about a child's attendance we will talk to the parents and write to them to explain why. We will then monitor attendance expecting to see an improvement. The Dorset County Council Attendance Service will be made aware of the school's concerns. If no improvement is made, the family will be invited to attend an Attendance Panel.

Here at The Wey Valley School we are determined to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to achieve success and have an excellent attendance record. All students' attendance is monitored. Where there is cause for concern you will be invited to a meeting in school and attendance closely monitored for the next six weeks. If attendance has not improved sufficiently - usually at least 95% - you will be invited to an attendance panel.

The panel is an opportunity for the school, family, other agencies and a representative from the Dorset County Council Attendance Service to meet together to discuss why a child has such high absence rates and to hopefully come up with solutions to any problems.

The panel can recommend several outcomes including a further six week period of close monitoring with specified targets for attendance, issuing a £60 Penalty Notice, a parenting order or seeking prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or custody.



The attendance process is designed to identify poor attendees quickly and address the issues that are affecting their attendance. When attendance improves, monitoring will continue and if it falls the attendance process will be resumed.

We hope that the Attendance Panel will not be needed and that all pupils will have a good record of attendance. In addition, students can access our attendance rewards which include Room 95 for a half term attendance above 95% (Years 7 to 10) and the opportunity to leave at 2.35pm on Friday when the previous weeks attendance has been 100% with 100% punctuality to all lessons (All year groups).

The Wey Valley School's aim is to work together to give your child the opportunity to benefit from their time at school and for them to be happy and successful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Wilson". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mr Andrew Wilson
Vice Principal
The Wey Valley School