



# Eskdale School

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3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Attendance 2022-2023**

As part of our continued commitment to attendance at Eskdale School please see the accompanying information outlining the importance of school attendance, details of our processes and additional legal information parents may find helpful and therefore wish to read and/or share with their child(ren).

Eskdale School fundamentally believes that your child's attendance is extremely important and one of the strengths of our school is the drive towards levels of attendance. Attendance is monitored on a weekly basis by our pastoral teams and the required level of support is implemented when required.

The formal whole school attendance review, completed by our attendance team, will take place on a half-termly cycle. Our attendance process is designed to ensure that all students under 92% attendance are identified as being at risk of dropping **below 90%, which is classed as persistent absenteeism (PA) by the Department for Education**. By identifying and focusing on those students between 90% and 92% we firmly believe that we can support and encourage those students to not drop into the PA category.

This process will allow us to highlight specific students as requiring contact from school in a variety of forms to hopefully increase their attendance at school. This dedication to attendance is integral to the successful learning our students can experience both academically and socially, so we feel very passionately about ensuring our students attend school regularly. It is the first line of safeguarding.

The process is designed to offer support to those families where attendance may be a challenge and explore ways in which we can support both parents and students in their personal situations. We understand that across the year and school there will be a wide range of extremely valid reasons for a young person to be absent from school. The process is not designed to challenge this. **However, we have a statutory obligation to encourage high levels of attendance and to support families in maintaining this therefore contact may still be received from school even if the absence is due to illness and parents have given prior notification. We hope that parents acknowledge this.**

We work very closely with the Local Authority in relation to attendance and will liaise with their Education Support Services as needed.

As part of this process we must advise that we cannot authorise holidays and/or non-emergency absence during school term-time. Please do bear in mind that your child may also be absent due to sickness at some point across the year so that absence, combined with an unauthorised absence, will adversely affect their overall attendance at school.

## **Lateness 2022 -23**

When a student is regularly late to school it can seriously impact their ability to access a full and complete curriculum. We track all students who are regularly late and pastoral teams across the school will offer support as and when required. Eskdale School defines being **'late to school'** as a student arriving post their official start time. Students who arrive at school post registration closure will be categorised as **late** as per the DfE guidance. This will formally go on to their school attendance record.

We are extremely proud of all that our students do and can achieve. Therefore, by encouraging high levels of attendance we are determined to work together with parents to ensure that every student can achieve their potential by being present in school for as much time as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Dixon

Deputy Head of School

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