



Nether Stowe School

Be Respectful. Be Ambitious. Be Resilient.

25th March 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

I am writing to emphasise the importance of maintaining good attendance at school and to share how it directly impacts your child's success and overall learning experience.

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors contributing to academic achievement. Students who attend school consistently are more likely to stay engaged in class, build strong relationships with their teachers and peers, and complete assignments and projects on time. When students miss school, they often fall behind, which can result in gaps in their understanding, difficulty catching up, and increased stress.

The benefits of good attendance extend beyond academics. Students who attend school regularly also develop important life skills, such as responsibility, time management, and perseverance. These skills are not only valuable in school but will serve your child well throughout their life.

Recent research by the Department for Education shows just how closely attendance and attainment are linked. The link between good attendance and attainment is strongest for secondary school aged pupils. Research has shown that Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year (this equates to 50 missed lessons) reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%.

We understand that there are times when your child may need to miss school due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances. However, we kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly, unless there is a legitimate reason for absence. If your child is absent, please inform the school as soon as possible and provide any necessary documentation, such as a doctor's note for medical absences.

In addition to the academic benefits, maintaining good attendance also helps us identify and support any students who may be struggling. We want to work together with you to address any challenges early on and provide the necessary resources to help your child succeed.

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Attendance Percentage	Lessons Missed (out of 990)	What does this mean for your child's progress and attainment?
100%	0	Perfect attendance. Your child has not missed any lesson and so their progress and attainment are well supported. Your child is twice as likely to achieve a grade 5 in English and Maths.
95%	50	This may appear to look like good attendance, however some crucial learning will have been missed, and this can impact on your child's progress and attainment. Your child's likelihood of achieving a grade 5 in English and Maths is reduced by 50%!
90%	99	A significant amount of learning has been lost and there will be a long-term detrimental impact on your child's progress and attainment. Your child is now considered persistently absent.
85%	149	Long term learning gaps will now have developed and this will lead to significant progress and attainment concerns. Your child will be experiencing difficulties in lesson.
75%	248	A quarter of the school year has lost. Your child is unlikely to be able to make progress in line with their peers and will not meet age related expectations.
50%	495	Critical learning loss. Your child is now considered severely absent.

We encourage you to discuss the importance of school attendance with your child and set a positive example by prioritising attendance yourself. If you ever have concerns or need assistance in addressing attendance issues, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school's attendance team.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ensuring that your child has a successful and fulfilling educational experience.

Kind regards,

Ms K Jones
Head Teacher

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