



Burnside Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs L Kelly

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Attendance Expectations and the Importance of Regular School Attendance

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we have begun a new academic year, we wanted to reach out to discuss the importance of attendance for each of our students

At Burnside Academy, we are committed to giving every child the best possible start in life. One of the most important factors in ensuring your child succeeds both academically and socially is regular attendance at school.

Why Attendance Matters

Children who attend school regularly not only perform better in their learning but also develop vital skills such as independence, social confidence, and resilience. Research has shown clear links between attendance and academic achievement:

- **Pupils with attendance of 95% or higher** are **nearly twice as likely** to meet age-related expectations in reading, writing, and maths at the end of primary school.
- Missing **just one day every two weeks** (90% attendance) over a school year equates to four whole weeks of lost learning.
- Pupils with **less than 90% attendance** are significantly **less likely to achieve expected standards** by the end of Year 6.

These figures are not just statistics – they represent real gaps in learning that can affect a child's long-term progress and confidence.

Our Expectations

We expect all pupils to aim for **at least 97% attendance** across the school year. To support this, we ask that:

- Children attend school **every day and on time**, unless there is a valid reason such as illness.
- Medical appointments are arranged **outside of school hours** where possible.

- Holidays during term time are avoided, in line with government guidelines. Leave of absence will only be authorised in **exceptional circumstances**.

How We Support Good Attendance

We monitor attendance closely and will contact you if we notice patterns of low attendance. Our pastoral and office teams are always here to help if you are facing any difficulties getting your child to school—we want to work with you to overcome any barriers.

In order to support excellent attendance we have an external support partner ‘Attendance 100’ to work closely with school to monitor attendance, if there are any issues which may act as a barrier to attendance, please contact them at enquiries@attendance100.com.

We appreciate your support in helping your child attend school regularly and punctually. Together, we can ensure that every child at Burnside Academy has the best chance to thrive and reach their full potential.

If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us or Attendance 100 and we can work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kelly

Headteacher