

Woodthorpe Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Dave Smith
Chair of Governors: David Parkin
www.woodthorpeprimary.co.uk



City Community Learning Trust

2 May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

School Attendance

Further to my previous letters to all parents, I write to remind you that you have a legal responsibility to ensure that your children attend school regularly.

I am pleased that the majority of pupils at Woodthorpe have very good attendance records and I would like to thank all those parents who ensure that their children attend school every day.

However, I am concerned that some children have sporadic unauthorised or unexplained absences that have a significant impact on their learning.

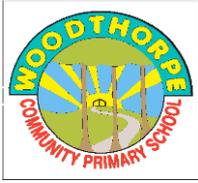
I write to remind you that the attendance of all our pupils is monitored by school and by the Local Authority and that legal action may be taken against parents or carers where attendance is a concern.

It is important that you are aware of what the law says about school attendance and I therefore attach further information in respect of the Education Act 1996.

Clearly we wish to avoid legal action so if there are any issues preventing regular attendance that I can help you with, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Mr D. Smith
Headteacher



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School Attendance - The Law

The Education Act 1996:

Section 7 states that:

The parent/carer of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education suitable -

- (a) to age, ability and aptitude, and
 - (b) to any special educational needs the child may have,
- either by regular attendance at school or 'otherwise'.

Section 444 (i) states that: If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at this school, his/her parents/carers are guilty of an offence.

A person found guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine of up to £1000.

Section 444 (1A) states that: If a parent/carer knowingly fails to secure his/her child's regular attendance at school without reasonable justification, they may be found guilty of the more serious aggravated offence.

A person found guilty of such an offence is liable to sanctions including a fine of up to £2500 or a term of imprisonment, or both.

Penalty notices: The school may request that the council issues a Penalty Notice or take other statutory action through the courts to secure regular school attendance. A penalty notice is used as an early intervention and is an alternative to prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act for irregular school attendance which is not authorised by the school.

The Penalty fine is currently £120 but reduced to £60 if paid within 28 days. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution in the magistrate's court under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.



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