



## *Striving for Excellence*

### Regular attendance and punctuality are top priorities with staff and Governors at Nine Acres Primary School.

We realise that for our pupils to achieve a good standard of academic and social success in school they need to attend school on a regular basis. We also understand that we need to work closely with Nine Acres families and outside support agencies in order that our policy is successful.

#### **Something to think about...**

Attendance statistics over a 1 year period:

98% absence = 4 days off school

95% absence = 10 days off school

90% absence = 4 weeks off school

85% absence = 5.5 weeks off school

80% absence = 7.5 weeks off school

Attendance statistics over a 5 year period:

85-90% absence = half a year off school

80% absence = 38 weeks off school - this is a whole year!



#### **Attendance**

Regulations on attendance require us to record any unauthorised absence. Regular attendance is essential – the Governing Body is concerned that absence is kept to the absolute minimum.

Authorised absence is defined as:-

- Sickness or unavoidable cause
- Religious observance

If your child is ill or absent from school for any reason please telephone the school on the day of each intended absence. If no explanation is forthcoming, or if school considers that the reason given is not sufficient to justify non-attendance, then the absence is unauthorised. This is noted on the child's report and all absences are reported to the Department for Education annually. If a pupil's attendance falls below 95% in a school term families will be notified in writing.

## Absence

We strongly encourage annual holidays to be taken out of term time. Leave of absence taken during term time should only be based on exceptional circumstances.



## Education Welfare Service

At Nine Acres, we work closely with the education welfare service. An education welfare officer visits school every two weeks to discuss attendance of pupils and persistent lateness. If a child's attendance falls below 95% and/or there is an issue with persistent lateness, letters will be sent to parents/carers and attendance will be closely monitored. If there is no improvement then a meeting will be arranged for parents/carers, school and the education welfare officer can discuss any issues/barriers to children attending school.

## How we can help

If you feel you may need additional support with any issues around your child's attendance or lateness, please make an appointment to see our Family worker or deputy Head Teacher.

