

## PUPIL ABSENCE STATEMENT 2018-2019

It has always been recognised in a range of research that pupils who have good attendance do better at school than those who miss lots of school. Attendance is one of the basic skills children need:

- ✓ to learn,
- ✓ to enjoy positive relationships with their peers, and
- ✓ to stay in future employment.

Recent news coverage of parents challenging penalty notices, has led to several questions about possible changes to Plymouth's absence policy. This statement is to describe the expectations of attendance at Discovery Multi Academy Trust, following Plymouth City Council policy.

In our mid-year and end of year reports, we always tell you of your child's attendance. Attendance of 95% and above is good, and 90% to 95% as average.

National average figures for last year were 96% so our end of year reports will be updated to reflect this.

All attendance of 96% and below is reviewed monthly by the Head of School and the academy's Education Welfare Officer. Unusual patterns, or attendance below 90%, is followed up by letters, a phone call or a visit from the Local Authority Officer. For families with unauthorised attendance or attendance below 90% (and not improving) warnings of penalty notices are given or a legal warning letter, followed up by fines if the attendance does not improve.

### **What does low or poor attendance look like?**

In every school year there are 190 school days and 175 non-school days.

96% attendance means your child has missed seven and a half days of school in a year.

95% attendance means your child has missed nine and a half days of school in a year.

90% attendance is a morning or afternoon missed every week.

85% attendance means your child has missed twenty-eight days (a month) of a school year.

92% attendance over your child's whole school career (5 to 16) is equivalent to missing a whole year, of school.

**At Discovery Multi Academy Trust, the expected level of attendance is 96% or above. In an unusual year, or due to unusual medical circumstances, a child's attendance may drop below this.**