



Cusgarne School
Cusgarne
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Head of School: Tim Barnard
Strategic Partner: Karen Middlemore

12 November 2019

Dear Parents

Attendance is always a topic that divides opinion and while we do appreciate that it is sometimes necessary to take children out of school, we also like to believe that as a parent of our school, you appreciate that when your child is not in attendance, it does have an impact upon their learning and creates an extra burden on teachers to support children in areas that they have missed. As a parent myself I do know that sharing some quality family time can benefit some children, but it is weighing up this balance and making sure their attendance and education has a priority. As you know Aspire Academy trust has a new attendance policy, which is aligned to the government legislation and we will be following this at Cusgarne.

At Cusgarne School, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances.

However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Head of School using the school's request form.

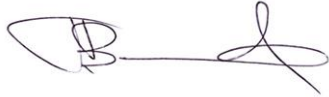
If you decide to still take your child out of school, without permission, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who as the issuing officer may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued under Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Fines are issued per parent/carer, per child. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in Court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates Court, leading to fines up to £2,500 and/or custodial sentences. The Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.



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Cornwall PL25 4FD

You are welcome to contact the school to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. Cusgarne School is committed to maximising the education of all its pupils and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Barnard', written in a cursive style.

Mr Tim Barnard
Head of School



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