



## PUPIL ABSENCE STATEMENT 2020-21

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.

News coverage of parents challenging penalty notices has led to questions about changes to Plymouth's school absence policy. This statement is to set out the expectations of attendance for Discovery Multi Academy Trust schools, in adherence with Plymouth City Council school absence policy.

In your child's report, we always tell you of your child's attendance. Attendance of 95% and above is good, and 90% to 95% is average. National average figures for last year remain at 96%, so our end of year reports will reflect this.

All attendance of 96% and below is reviewed monthly by the Head of School and the school's assigned Education Welfare Officer (EWO). Unusual patterns, or attendance below 90%, are followed up by letters, a phone call or a visit from the EWO. 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 with 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.

**For Discovery Multi Academy Trust schools, the expected level of school attendance is 96% or above.**

The Trust recognises that due to unusual medical or other circumstances, a child's attendance may drop below this.