



24th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The following information is circulated to all parents if their child/children attend a school within the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP). This is a unified and agreed approach throughout DASP towards supporting good school attendance. Please be assured that whilst we will be sympathetic with families with genuine concerns over COVID19, it is expected that all children should now regularly attend school. We are always grateful to parents and carers that stay in regular contact with us if their child is absent from school.

Information for all parents and carers on the importance of attendance and the attendance process.

St Osmund's CE Middle School and the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP) are pleased to be able to provide some detail about our expectations for pupil attendance for the forthcoming academic year. Clearly, both families and schools are operating in challenging circumstances at present. We understand that you may have concerns for your child's well-being and this may influence your decision for your child's return to school. We urge you to talk to and work with us if this is the case so that we are able to work together to ensure that your child enjoys full attendance and participation in school and that you are able to be reassured for their well-being.

St Osmund's and DASP will remain committed to ensuring the best for all our learners and are working together with parents and carers to support children and families as schools return widely in September. All schools are working hard to promote good attendance and have common systems in place to work with families when attendance drops below an acceptable level.

You will be aware of the importance of good school attendance in improving a young person's chance of success in life and establishing positive attitudes to life-long learning. There is clear evidence of the link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Of pupils who have less than 90% attendance, only 35% achieve five or more GCSEs at Grade 9 to 4 including Maths and English, but 73% of pupils who have attendance of 95% or more will achieve this.

If a child has an attendance level of 90% they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year this will represent four weeks of absence. If this level of absence were maintained for a five year period it would mean half a school year would have been missed.

The attendance process is designed to identify poor attendees quickly and address the issues that are affecting their attendance. When attendance improves, monitoring will continue and, if it falls, the Attendance Process will be resumed.

If we or DASP are concerned about a child's attendance we will talk to the parents and write to them to explain our concerns. The school will then monitor the child's attendance expecting to see an improvement. The Dorset Council (DC) School Attendance Service will be made aware of the school's concerns. If no improvement is made, the family will be invited to attend an Attendance Panel.

Headteacher: Mrs S Sawtell MA (Oxon) NPQH
St Osmund's CE Middle School A Church of England Academy
Barnes Way, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DZ
Tel: 01305 262897
Email: office@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk
www.stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

Leadership Team:
Mr P Absolom MA
Mr S Beet BA
Mr G Biddle BSc
Mrs A Boon BA
Mrs R Gollidge DSBM

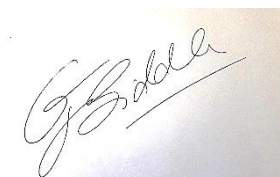


Here at St Osmund's, and within DASP, we are determined to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to achieve success and have an excellent record of attendance. Where there is cause for concern parents will be contacted and the child's attendance will be closely monitored. If attendance does not improve sufficiently, the parents will be invited to an Attendance Meeting or Panel. This meeting is an opportunity for the school, family and a representative from DC's School Attendance Service to meet together to discuss why your child has such a high absence rate and seek solutions to any problems.

The Panel/Meeting can recommend several outcomes, which can include; a further period of close monitoring with specified targets for attendance; issuing a £60 Penalty Notice, a Parenting Order or seeking prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £1,000. This information is being presented to make parents aware of the process. We constantly work in the hope that the Attendance Meeting/ Panel will not be needed and that all pupils will have a good record of attendance, are happy and successful and benefit from their time in school.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance please contact their Form Tutor in the first instance. For more serious concerns, you might consider contacting your child's Year Leader.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Gareth Biddle
Assistant Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs S Sawtell MA (Oxon) NPQH
St Osmund's CE Middle School A Church of England Academy
Barnes Way, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DZ
Tel: 01305 262897
Email: office@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk
www.stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

Leadership Team:
Mr P Absolom MA
Mr S Beet BA
Mr G Biddle BSc
Mrs A Boon BA
Mrs R Golledge DSBM



Headteacher: Mrs S Sawtell MA (Oxon) NPQH
St Osmund's CE Middle School A Church of England Academy
Barnes Way, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DZ
Tel: 01305 262897
Email: office@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk
www.stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

Leadership Team:
Mr P Absolom MA
Mr S Beet BA
Mr G Biddle BSc
Mrs A Boon BA
Mrs R Gollidge DSBM



St Osmund's School is part of the Wessex MAT a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07677838. The registered office is Queens Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2ET