

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

The Local Authority has agreed with Religious Leaders and SACRE that one day for each religious festival (no more than three days in any one academic year), should be counted as authorised absence. We ask parents and carers to inform the school beforehand of any intended days of absence.

PUNCTUALITY

Pupils are expected to be within the school gates before 8.40am

- Pupils arriving after this time up until 9.00am will be recorded as 'L' (late before register closes).
- Pupils arriving after 9.00am may be recorded as 'U' (late after register closes) and would therefore be marked as an unauthorised absence.
- Punctuality issues will initially be addressed with the parents/carers by correspondence; however this may lead to more formal meetings in school.

The Local Authority will be asked to issue a Penalty Notice on the school's behalf for any pupil registered late (recorded as U) 5 times in a rolling five-week period.

At Rosslyn Park Primary, we use a range of incentives to encourage and support the drive to achieve good attendance and punctuality. This includes:

- Class prizes for the overall winning class each half-term.
- Special prizes for all pupils achieving 100% attendance over the academic year.
- 'Attendance Week' rewards spread throughout the year for classes and/or individual pupils.
- A range of other incentive schemes and attendance based prizes including: class parties, class trips to local attractions; vouchers and coupons for local businesses; certificates and stickers for pupils.

If you would like to read the Attendance Policy in full then you may access it by:

- Requesting to see a copy of the policy at the school office
- Visiting the school web-site
- Purchasing your own copy of the policy for a small fee

Rosslyn Park Primary School Attendance Policy Summary for Parents/Carers



PROMOTING AND MAXIMISING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!

“Good attendance, including punctuality, is essential to raising the educational attainment of all pupils and offering them the best possible life chances following statutory education. In order to achieve this, children and young people need to attend school regularly and be equipped to learn. Children cannot learn if they are absent from school.”

What should you do?

- Ensure your child attends school every day they are well enough to do so.
- Inform the school immediately if they will not be in school and explain why.
- Make appointments outside of school hours where possible.

- Return your child to school immediately after an appointment.

What happens when you child is absent?

You must inform the school if your child is absent- this is your responsibility.

- If you haven't contacted school, school will contact you- through a phone call or maybe a home visit. You must respond to this.
- The reason for absence will be recorded and may be authorised or not.
- Your child misses vital learning and social time with their friends.

Monitoring attendance

All pupils' attendance is monitored and they should attend every day. Below this level, you are more likely to be visited at home if your child is absent.

If attendance falls below 90%, the child is classed as a Persistent Absentee (PA) and we are seriously concerned about their attendance. You will be invited into school for a meeting and will be informed that further absences will be unauthorised without medical proof and school may make a referral to the Education Welfare Service, who may take further action which could include issuing a penalty notice.

A Penalty Notice incurs a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days increased to £120 if paid within the 28th day.

If attendance remains unsatisfactory, the Local Authority may have no alternative other than issue a Penalty Notice or proceed to court in accordance with Section 444(1) or Section 444(1a) of the Education Act 1996. Convictions of an offence under these acts may result in a fine of £1000, £2500 or a prison sentence.

What happens in the nursery?

Your child should still attend every day to ensure they learn as much as they can ready for school. If they regularly do not attend, their nursery place may be withdrawn.

Holidays in term time (family holidays)

The Department for Education have determined that schools can no longer authorise holidays in term time. If families choose to take their child out of school

during term time a referral may be made to the Education Welfare Service who may take legal action.

- **An Education Welfare Referral may be submitted if the school is informed or suspect that a family has been on holiday whilst suggesting to the school another reason of absence. It will be up to the family to prove that they have not taken a family vacation.**
- Children/young people taken out of school for a holiday will have the non-attendance recorded as an unauthorised absence.
- A child or young person who does not return to school at the end of the recorded unauthorised holiday date will initially be subject to enquiries being made by the school, followed by a referral being made to the Education Welfare Service.
- Following the above information, if a parent/carer still intends to take their child on holiday during term time, they have a duty to inform the school of this action and give at least 6 weeks' notice of the event.
NB- Notified holiday absence will still be classed as an unauthorised absence and families will be issued with a penalty notice

A Penalty Notice incurs a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days, increased to £120 if paid within the 28th day. This will be issued to each parent for each child who is not at school on the dates when the holiday is taken.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Schools have a discretionary power to grant a pupil time off school during the term if they believe that there are extenuating circumstances or compassionate reasons that justify the leave. **This is not a holiday in term time. Cheaper holiday prices are NOT exceptional circumstances.**

- **Requests are treated on a case by case basis. If the request is refused then any absences taken on the dates requested will be recorded as unauthorised absences.**

Such requests receive a response in writing that addresses the following points:

- **The expected date of return**
- **That the parents/carers are expected to contact the school if anything delays the pupil returning to school when expected**
- **What action will be taken if the pupil fails to return when expected**

Similarly, a letter will be sent out should a request be refused, stating what action will be taken if the parents/carers ignore the refusal.