



14th March 2016

Dear Parents,

Re. Introduction of fines for poor attendance and punctuality

Missing school can have a lasting effect on your child's life chances. Children struggle to catch up on missed lessons and can be left permanently trailing if they miss just a small portion of the curriculum.

At Simpson's Lane, we greatly appreciate all the work the majority of parents are doing to ensure their child arrives at school at 8.30am every day. Unfortunately, there are some parents who persistently show that they do not value the importance of punctuality and a high rate of attendance. The data below shows that we have 37 pupils who missed more than 10% of sessions in school, which is unacceptable. Many of the children who are persistently late or persistently absent are also falling further and further behind those children who arrive at school on time and have a high rate of attendance, and I'm sure you'll agree that this is also unacceptable.

Cumulative Attendance:	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	Academy Year End Target
% Attendance	96.19	95.31	95.41				96
% Unauthorised Absence	1.18	1.1	0.96				0.5
% Persistent Absence	11.9	15	15				4
Number of Pupils with Persistent Absence (in each half-term)	29	37	37				10

The Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body firmly believe in the importance of regular attendance and punctuality and the impact that this has on children's life chances; it is for this reason that we have decided to employ the services of an Education Welfare Officer from Wakefield Local Authority, to support the work we do in school.

The Attendance Policy has been amended to reflect the changes that will be made to our procedures following the Easter holidays, and a further change that will be made in September; this is available for you to read on the Simpson's Lane website under the 'Downloads' tab, in 'Policies'. Please request a paper copy from the office if you are unable to access the internet. It is important that you read this, as it details under what circumstances the Education Welfare Officer will issue £60 fines. The policy will also update you on the work we are doing with the children in school to promote good punctuality and attendance.

Our target attendance figure for the end of the year is 96%, and we would really appreciate your support in helping your children to achieve this goal to ensure every child at Simpson's Lane Academy reaches their potential.

Kind regards,

S. Annable
Head of Academy



Primary Member
2013-14



Chief Executive: Sir Paul Edwards
Company Number: 07386086
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