



GREENWOOD TREE
ACADEMY TRUST

Headteacher: Sharon Hunt
Milborne St Andrew First School
Hopsfield
Milborne St Andrew
Dorset
DT11 0JE

1st November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE:- INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE AND THE ATTENDANCE PROCESS

Milborne St Andrew First School/Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP) are committed to ensuring the best for all our learners and are working together with parents and carers to support children and families. All schools are working hard to promote good attendance and have common systems in place to work with families when attendance drops below 95%.

You may 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, studies have shown that only 35% achieve five or more GCSEs at A * to C including Maths and English, but 73% of pupils who have attendance of 95% or more will achieve better results.

If a child has an attendance level of 90% they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over the school year this will represent four weeks (20 days) worth of absence. If this level of absence were maintained for a five year period it would mean that half a school year would have been missed.

If Milborne St Andrew First School/DASP are concerned about a child's attendance, we will talk to parents and write to them explaining our concerns. Dorset County Council (DCC) School Attendance Service will be made aware of the school's concerns and the school will then monitor the child's attendance for a period of time expecting to see some improvement.

Here at Milborne St Andrew First School/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 you will be contacted and attendance closely monitored. If no improvement is made, the family will be invited to attend an DASP Attendance Panel. This meeting is an opportunity for the school, family and a representative from DCC's School Attendance Service to discuss why your child has such a high absence rate and seek solutions to any problems.

The DASP Attendance Panel 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
- seek prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £1,000.

The school attendance process is designed to identify poor attendees quickly and address the issues that are affecting their attendance. When attendance improves, monitoring will continue but should it fall, the attendance process will be resumed.



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All schools hope that the DASP Attendance Meeting/Panel will not be needed and that all pupils will have a good record of attendance, are happy, successful and benefit from their time at school.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hunt
Headteacher