

St. Paul's C.E. Primary School

Headteacher:- Ms J. Sorohan B.Ed. (Hons.) N.P.Q.H.
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Monday 17th September

Re: Attendance

Dear Parents/Carers

The government is once again bringing school attendance into the national limelight; here at St Paul's we are dangerously close to not meeting the national standard for attendance. This year national expectations for a satisfactory (needs improving) benchmark was 95%, St Paul's attendance last year was 95.3%. We only just made a satisfactory grade. I feel one of the biggest impacts on our attendance is families taking holidays in term time. Last year alone I had 103 requests for additional leave in term time.

In consultation with the governors of St Paul's we feel the only way to bring attendance up to the standard of an Outstanding school is by being more selective when granting leave in term time. Parents are therefore requested to avoid taking their children on holiday during term time. However, up to 5 days may be granted in extreme circumstances in any one school year. If your child's attendance is below the national average of 95% at the time of your request I almost certainly will not grant leave for a holiday.

If you take leave without permission you risk losing your child's school place. St Paul's is a highly oversubscribed school with many families waiting to get a place. So please let's work together to ensure our children attend everyday.

You can find a copy of the Attendance policy on the school website at www.stpaulswithington.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Ms J Sorohan

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