

Attendance Matters at De La Salle

Research shows children who attend school regularly are likely to be more successful in later life

What is unacceptable absence at De La Salle?

- Holiday
- Shopping
- Birthday treats and trips
- Looking after others at home
- Tiredness
- Non-urgent medical or dental appointments

What does the Law say?

- **You** must inform the school if your child cannot attend on **01744 20511**
- **You** have a legal responsibility to make sure your child gets provided with a full time education between the ages of 4 and 16
- **You** can be fined up to £2500, placed on electronic monitoring, or even imprisoned if your child's attendance is below expected
- **You** could be given a parenting order, which means you will have to attend parenting class.
- **You** may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £60 (£120 if not paid within 28 days)
- **You** may be contacted by, an Education Welfare Officer, at your home to discuss the problem further

How can you help your child?

Develop a routine...

- In the evening have a routine of dinner, homework, watch TV, read and pack bag for the following day
- Arrange a table/ desk in a quiet area, for your child to complete homework
- Make sure your child has plenty of sleep and is not awake late using their phone, games console, computer or iPad. Teenagers should be aiming for at least 9 hours sleep a night
- Breakfast and a drink in the morning helps to speed up the metabolism, making children more alert and ready for learning

- Take an interest – ask questions, read around topics studied in school, suggest help and encourage your child in all aspects of school

Check expectations...

- Check 'Show My Homework' to see what homework has been set and when it is due.
- Use Parentmail, to read any communication from school
- Check **your** child's planner, for any other important information
- Look at the website to ensure **you** are informed about school dates and issues

Don't give in to your child...

- **You** are the adult and it is your responsibility to make important decisions.
- If **your** child complains of feeling unwell, make sure they are truly ill before allowing time of school
- If **you** are unsure, put a note in their planner, with a contact number and we will phone **you** if we find it necessary
- This will help **your** child develop the right habit for the world of work; where absence and lateness are rarely tolerated.
- If **your** child regularly complains of feeling ill, with no medical reason, contact your child's Pastoral Support Manager or Progress Leader, so the matter can be investigated further.

Reward your child...

- We reward **your** child at school for acceptable attendance and attainment.
- **You** could add **your** own rewards at home – these can be as simple as verbal praise, or telling family and friends about successes

Help your child be successful at school ...

- Emphasise the importance of having a good school attendance record as this is quoted in a job reference.
- Better attendance leads to better qualifications allowing **your** child to choose their own career path

Did you know?

- The Government expect all students to have **97%** attendance
- **90%** attendance is not classed as good and means missing on average $\frac{1}{2}$ a day **EVERY** week – your child will also be classed as **Persistent Absentee (PA)** and additional support or sanctions may be given
- **90%** attendance is the equivalent of missing **4** whole weeks in one school year - the equivalent of missing **100** hours of learning in lessons
- Over **5** years at De La Salle, this is the equivalent of missing half a school year
- **80%** attendance is the same as missing **1** full day a week and missing **1** full year of education at De La Salle
- Missing just **17** days in one year can lead to dropping a full grade at GCSE
- Achieving **5** or more GCSEs can increase wages by **42%**
- **75%** of students with attendance of **95%** or above achieve **5** or more **A*-C** grades at GCSE
- A **2** week holiday each year, whilst at De La Salle, will mean your child has missed **10** weeks of learning – over $\frac{1}{4}$ of a school year
- A **2** week holiday automatically reduces your child to below **95%** attendance
- Only **25%** of students with attendance below **90%** achieve **5** or more GCSEs
- Only **10%** of students with attendance of 85% or below achieve **5** or more GCSEs
- School truants are **6** times more likely to be unemployed