



# KINGS PRIORY SCHOOL

a 21st century education at the heart of the community

September 2020

Dear Parent,

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## **Attendance 2020-2021**

As part of our ongoing commitment to attendance at Kings Priory School please see the accompanying information outlining the importance of school attendance, details of our processes and additional legal information parents may find helpful and therefore wish to read and/or share with their child(ren). We fully understand that this year this may all look a little different due to COVID-19 restrictions but please be assured this will not impact the tracking of attendance as per the DfE Guidance and absence due to this is exempt from normal attendance tracking. **We can confirm that no family will be penalised due to COVID-19 absence.**

With all this in mind we still fundamentally believe that your child's attendance is extremely important and one of the strengths of our school is the consistently high levels of attendance. Attendance will continue to be monitored on a weekly basis by our pastoral teams and the required level of support will be implemented when required.

The formal whole school attendance review, completed by our attendance team, will take place on a half-termly cycle. Our bespoke attendance process is designed to ensure all pupils under 92% attendance are identified of being at risk of dropping **below 90%, which is classed as persistent absenteeism by the Department for Education. (This is not including COVID-19 coded absence.)**

This process will allow us to flag specific pupils as needing contact from school in a variety of forms to hopefully increase their attendance at school. This dedication to attendance is integral to the successful learning our pupils can experience both academically and socially, so we feel very passionately about ensuring our pupils attend school regularly.

The process is designed to offer support to those families where attendance may be a challenge and explore ways in which we can support both parents and pupils in their personal situations. We understand that across the year and school there will be a wide range of extremely valid reasons for a young person to be absent from school. The process is not designed to challenge this. **However, we have a statutory obligation to encourage high levels of attendance and to support families in maintaining this therefore contact may still be received from school even if the absence is due to illness and parents have given prior notification. We hope that parents acknowledge this.**

As part of this process we must advise that we cannot authorise holidays during school term-time. Please do bear in mind that your child may also be absent due to sickness at some point across the year, so that absence combined with an unauthorised absence will adversely affect their overall attendance.

We are extremely proud of all that our pupils do and can achieve; therefore, by encouraging high levels of attendance we are determined to work together with parents to ensure that every pupil can achieve their potential by being present in school for as much time as possible.

**Kings Priory School**

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