# **Attendance Matters**

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### Attendance at St Paul's

Welcome to St Paul's first Attendance Matters newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to give parents an overview of attendance in the school and to get your support with improving our current statistics and reach our targets. Our aim, is for a whole school attendance of **at least 96%.** 

We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and do fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives at 8.15am ready to learn at 8.30am.



## Why does attendance even matter?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.
- Being late to school leads to poor attendance which can also have an affect when moving to other schools.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help catch children up.

## What can you do to support your child's good attendance?

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes early
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of stomach ache and headache can be signs of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to their teacher, DSL /DDSL or other parents for advice on how to make him/her comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop a back up plan for arriving at school if something comes up. Call on family member, neighbour, or friend to help.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips during term times.

### The facts....

Nationally, pupil attendance expectation is **96%**. This means that a child needs to attend school for at least 168 out of 175 days to meet national expectations.

At St Paul's, children are only required to attend for 175 days of the year, 20 days less than mainstream schools. This gives families 190 non school days to arrange holidays and non urgent medical treatment.

Currently, our overall school attendance is only 93.74%, we have some way to go! Lateness accounts for 3.53% of the loss.

Current Attendance percentage	No. of Children	Equivalent %
100%	34	17.7%
96% and over	49	25.5%
90.1% - 95.9%	56	29.2%
90 & Under	53	27.6%

Based on the data above, **83 children are 96% and above and 109 are below**. This means only 43.2% of children is reaching the national average expectations and 56.8% are below.

#### **Spotlight on Punctuality**

It is important that your child attends school every day and on time.

Arriving late to school is unsettling for children and disrupts the start to their day.

Did you know? 10 minutes late every day = 29 hours lost learning each year!!

This is the equivalent of 44 lessons!

#### **Absence through illness**

We understand and appreciate that children can become ill and that it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or keep them at home, so to help you with this decision we have devised a useful reference guide.

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact <a href="mailto:absence@stpaulssteinerschool.org">absence@stpaulssteinerschool.org</a> before 8.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will text you to find out why your child is not in school. When reporting your child's absence, please include their name and class in the email. This saves us a lot of time and is much appreciated. Thank you.

RED - STAY AT HOME Sickness & Diarrhoea - 48 hours must have elapsed before a child can return to school from the last episode AMBER - SEEK ADVICE Headache, Feeling Sick, Tummy Ache Children often feel unwell if they are anxious, so if in doubt contact the school for advice.

GREEN - COME TO SCHOOL Mild cough, Cold, Sore Throat, Feeling Tired We will always contact you if your child is ill during the school day.