

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024  
CM/SR



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Dear Parent/Carer

Perth & Kinross Council have revised their attendance guidance taking into account national guidance. This ensures schools are meeting statutory requirements as well as, hopefully, positively impacting pupil attendance levels.

Perth & Kinross Council's Attendance Policy and Guidance states that: ***Excellent attendance at school is important to allow children and young people to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best possible start in life. As an Education Authority, we aspire for 100% attendance for all our children and young people. Perth and Kinross Council are committed to improve attendance and expect attendance of 92% in secondary.***

As you'll have noticed from the email regarding the recent Quality Improvement Review, our attendance procedures were one of the things being looked at. Currently our procedures include having discussions or meetings with parents, written communications and working with families, including with support from other agencies. Going forward, procedures will also include more robust use of the PKC Attendance Policy letters.

Whilst we are aware that pupils may be absent for many reasons, including illness, absences do impact on progress and educational development which it can be difficult to make up later in life. Excluding occasional holidays and INSET days, pupils have approximately 12 weeks of holidays every year so it is expected that family holidays should be accommodated within the school holidays as much as possible. The table below shows the potential impact of absences.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of attendance or attendance procedures, I will be happy to do so in the new term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Martin'.

CP Craig Martin  
DHT – Support



## ATTENDANCE FACTS

Every pupil at our secondary school must have an attendance of 92% in order for them to comply with Perth and Kinross Council regulation. When a child's absence falls below this figure it has a dramatic impact on their learning. The figures below state very clearly the effect absence has on your child's learning.

Attendance during one school year	Equates to school days absent in one school year	Equates to approximate school weeks absent in one school year	Equates to school lessons missed in one school year	Effect of absence on your child's learning
95%	9 days	2 weeks	54 lessons	<b>Watch out! Your child will have gaps in their learning</b>
90%	18 days	4 weeks	108 lessons	
85%	27 days	6 weeks	162 lessons	<b>Danger! It will be difficult for your child to catch up.</b>
80%	36 days	8 weeks	216 lessons	
75%	45 days	10 weeks	270 lessons	<b>It will be almost impossible for your child to catch up.</b>
70%	54 days	12 weeks	324 lessons	
60%	72 days	14 weeks	432 lessons	

**WHEN ATTENDANCE DROPS TO BETWEEN 85% AND 90% - OVER 5 YEARS A CHILD WILL LOSE HALF OF YEAR OF SCHOOLING**

**WHEN ATTENDANCE DROPS TO 80% - OVER 5 YEARS A CHILD WILL LOSE A YEAR OF SCHOOLING**

For our pupils, every day at school is like getting a piece of a jigsaw puzzle – the more pieces they have the easier it is to see the whole picture. We plan learning opportunities that build on previous activities and understanding, therefore every day is as important as the previous day or the next day. The more time your child spends in school, the better your child's attainment will be.

**REMEMBER – EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS**