



Information for Parents - Attendance Statement

It is essential that children and young people form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career. Southill Primary School, Conifers Primary School and Bincombe Valley Primary School are committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their school and it is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

All three schools have agreed the following:

- No Leave of Absence will be granted during term time.
- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Good punctuality is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education it is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
- If your child is ill, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school on the first day of absence. The school may then contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return. Schools have the right to request evidence of illness and will do so if a child builds up considerable absence through illness over a period of time. Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child's health continues to affect their education, schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided.

We are therefore informing parents/carers that, should you wish to take your child out of school for any leave of absence, holidays or otherwise, requests will not be routinely granted. It is essential that any requests for leave of absence (not holidays) are discussed with your child's Headteacher prior to the request being made. Any absence which has not been authorised by your child's school will be recorded as `unauthorised` and this has the potential to impact on your child's overall absence figure and eventually could result in legal action.

We will monitor the attendance of our pupils and work closely with Dorset Council to support children and young people whose attendance levels are causing concern.

We are all committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve, and recognises that good attendance is central to this.

Covid-19:

Government guidance states that from the start of the Autumn term 2020, pupil attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply. However, Coronavirus still exists! Therefore, all three schools would like to remind you that you should not to send your child to school if they have any one of the three Coronavirus symptoms; a new continuous cough, a fever or a change to their sense of smell or taste. If your child has one of these symptoms, please self-isolate, seek a test and keep the school informed.