



August 2020

Attendance

Any absence by students from school or school activities is detrimental to their education; whilst Dane Court Grammar School as a whole has very good attendance, we are concerned about the levels of absence for a minority of our students.

The school has a wide range of measures to help students who have genuine reasons for missing school and staff will always look to help families overcome issues that may be affecting their child's attendance.

Days off school soon add up – missing lessons makes it hard to catch up and students have to work harder on their return to school.

It may be useful for you to know what attendance figures mean for your child:

98% → 100% = excellent

96% → 97% = good

95% = the national minimum expectation

92% → 94% = below average/low

90% → 91% = very low

85% → 90% = exceptionally low

90% and below = persistent absentee

If your child's attendance falls below 95% it triggers a cause for concern and school interventions. If it falls to 90% it triggers interventions by the School Liaison Officer. If these interventions do not improve attendance, then further action can be taken resulting in a possible court case.

Please help your child to maintain good attendance by booking appointments with the doctor, dentist or optician either in the school holidays or after school. Holidays during term time will not be authorised. Any requests for absence should be put in writing using our absence request forms.

Our minimum attendance target for students is 95%. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact the school. When your child returns to school, please give them a note and, if relevant, the appointment card/hospital letter.

I hope you will support us in maintaining good attendance. If you wish to know your child's attendance figure or discuss anything related to attendance and punctuality, please ring the school and ask for the Attendance Officer.