



Attendance

Staplehurst School – April 2018

CURRENT POSITION

- **OVERALL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF 93.42% LAST TERM.**
- **KCC REQUIREMENTS ARE 95%+MINIMUM.**
- **249 CHILDREN (59.7%) ACHIEVE >95%.**
- **40.3% OF CHILDREN ARE NOT AT SCHOOL ENOUGH!**
- **THE IMPACT ON PROGRESS IS WELL EVIDENCED.**
- **LATENESS IS A MAJOR ISSUE ACROSS THE SCHOOL.**

MOVING FORWARD.....

- NO absence other than illness will be authorised.
- There will be no 'holiday forms' available as they can give 'false hope'.
- Termly updates of attendance (slips home).
- Letters at crucial dips (95% & 90%) in attendance.
- 90% or below and medical evidence will be asked for.
- Meetings with Head and Inclusion for persistent absence i.e. with no improvement.
- Fining. When and HOW MUCH?!

Attendance Policy – actions to be taken by the school

FOR ALL	Termly updates for parents/carers on their child's attendance.
STEP ONE	A letter home if the attendance falls below 95%.
STEP TWO	A further letter home if the attendance drops below 90%, with the parents being invited in to meet with the school. All absences from now on must be evidenced with a doctor's note/prescription/ appointment card. If these are not provided the absence will be marked as unauthorised.
STEP THREE	If no improvement is seen, a referral to the Local Authority may be made. A Penalty Notice* can be issued if a child is absent for 10 or more half day sessions (5 school days) without authorisation. This is a fine which will be enforced by the Local Authority, not the school.
Lateness	10 incidents of late arrival (after the registers have closed) could result in a referral to the Local Authority. A Penalty Notice* Warning letter and a fine may be imposed and enforced by the Local Authority.

THE POSITIVES

- **PUPILS WITH 100% ATTENDANCE WILL BE ALLOWED TO WEAR THEIR OWN CLOTHES ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM (3 PER YEAR).**
- **THE STUDENT COUNCIL HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH INVENTING SOME MORE INCENTIVES.....**
- **....THESE INCLUDE SUMMER GAMES AFTERNOON IN THE PARK, SILVER SERVICE LUNCH, BAKING AND CINEMA AFTERNOON IN THE HALL.**
- **SINCE WE LAUNCHED THIS PROGRAMME THE ATTENDANCE HAS ALREADY IMPROVED – 98.7% LAST WEEK, WITH 2 CLASSES GETTING 100%!!**

To SUM UP...

- **CURRENT ATTENDANCE ISN'T DIRE BUT IT ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH AND HISTORICALLY STAPLEHURST SCHOOL DOES NOT HIT THE ACCEPTABLE TARGETS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. THIS IS A LONG TERM PROBLEM THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED AND A NEW PRECEDENT SET DOWN.**
- **THIS IS NOT JUST DOWN TO A FEW POOR ATTENDEES AND IT IS NOT ONE AGE, YEAR, SOCIAL OR CULTURAL GROUP TO BLAME. 40% OF CHILDREN NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR ATTENDANCE.**
- **THE SCHOOL IS HERE TO SUPPORT NOT CRITICISE AND WE WILL LOOK AT EACH PUPIL'S ATTENDANCE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS BEFORE ANY REFERRALS TO KCC ARE MADE.**

And finally.....

- Coffee morning/drop in session on 9th May at 2.30pm. EWO will be attending. Please join us!