

Tuesday 15 November 2022

IMPORTANT - UPDATED ATTENDANCE POLICY

Dear Parents and Carers,

At The Belham and within the wider Charter Schools Trust we believe that education transforms lives. A key factor in delivering this is a child's attendance at school. An excellent attendance allows pupils to gain the most from their education. There has recently been updated guidance from the Department for Education and working with the Trust we have taken this opportunity to review and clarify our attendance and punctuality policy. Please full details including a link to the policy here -

<http://www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk/attendance-and-punctuality.html>

As you will see, a good attendance is classed as in excess of 96%. We of course understand that some absences are unavoidable but hopefully this policy will outline much more clearly absences which can and cannot be authorized as well as strategies that the school may take to support families.

The Department for Education classes 'persistent absence' as an attendance which falls below 90%. Later on this week, the parents and carers of children whose attendance dropped below 90% last half term will be receiving an email from the school. Please do not be unduly alarmed by this. In most cases, this will be to notify you of your child's attendance percentage. In some cases we may invite you to attend a meeting with a member of the leadership team so we can better understand your current situation and any barriers to an improved attendance.

With best wishes,

The Belham Primary School