



Our Ref: THA/LHE

Monday 6th October 2025

RE: Student Attendance Targets

Dear Parent/Carer,

Good school attendance plays a vital role to every child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Research carried out by the Department for Education shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the strongest GCSE and A Level results in line with their ability.

Their research found that students who performed better both at the end of primary and [secondary school](#) missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. The two significant outcomes of their research were:

- 83.7% of students with 100% attendance achieved strong outcomes in English and maths
- Only 35.6% of students with an attendance of below 90% achieved strong outcomes in English and maths

As a school we want to support both students and parents to ensure that attendance is second nature and where barriers may prevent this, ensure that support is available to help students overcome any difficulties.

In line with this, students have been allocated a Likely and Aspirational Attendance Target. For Years 8-11 this builds upon where they concluded last academic year and for Y7 this is set for all students at 95% likely and 100% aspirational.

To ascertain if a student is on track to meet their attendance target, we compare their likely target with the best possible attendance they can still achieve by the end of the year (this is the maximum percentage a student can achieve with no subsequent days off). This means a student may currently be below their target, but they can still achieve it if their potential end-of-year attendance is higher than their likely target.

Early analysis demonstrates that many students are on track to achieve their likely targets and in a number of cases their aspirational target by the end of the year which is a positive reflection of their approach to attendance for the new academic year.

We would really value and appreciate your support in promoting good attendance and punctuality from home to further support students in achieving and exceeding their attendance targets.



The link between attendance, attainment, wellbeing and the progress of students in school is beyond doubt. It is for this reason that the law states:

- Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring their child/children receive a full-time education and regularly attend school
- Parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to make sure that their child/children attend school regularly, even if they are missing school without their knowledge

As a member of Wickersley Partnership Trust, we have a rigorous attendance monitoring and family support system to work with our parents in their statutory duty of ensuring their children attend school regularly. This system will add an additional layer of support before the punitive Fixed Penalty Notice pathway directed by the Department for Education in line with Local Authority procedure.

Our attendance monitoring and family support system is as follows:

Stage	Level of absence	Intervention
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sessions (equivalent to 3 days) absent between September and October or, • 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) absent between September and December or, • 14 sessions (equivalent to 7 days) absent between September and February or, • 18 sessions (equivalent to 9 days) absent between September and March or, • 22 sessions (equivalent to 11 days) absent between September and May or, • 26 sessions (equivalent to 13 days) absent between September and July 	Attendance Monitoring
Phase 1	A further 6 sessions (equivalent to 3 days) absent over a 4-week period	Telephone meeting with the Attendance Manager Informal Attendance Support Plan
Phase 2	A further 6 sessions (equivalent to 3 days) absent over a 3–5 week period	Meeting with the Pastoral Lead for Attendance or the Assistant Headteacher for Attendance Formal Attendance Support Plan

The table above highlights the increased level of support we are implementing in order to avoid our families being taken through the Fixed Penalty Notice pathway by the Local Authority. At each stage of our support plans, we will implement a graduated response to interventions dependent upon the need of the child.

First Day Contact Procedures

In addition to the layers of support outlined we like to ensure our communication with parents is as prompt as possible. Parents will continue to receive an automated text message at 9am if their child has not been registered during form period. Following on from Period 1 registration, any parent of a child who has still not been registered will receive a second text message/phone call requesting the reason for absence.

There is nothing more important than the partnership between a child, family and school. Working together we can ensure all our students have good attendance in order for them to:

- Make progress commensurate to their ability
- Have opportunities to engage in positive relationships with their peers
- Develop the personal attributes that ensure they are ready, able and qualified to play their part in the wider world

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'T. Hardcastle' with a flourish at the end.

T Hardcastle
Headteacher