



Sir Edmund Hillary Academy  
A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

### Attendance Update

I just want to take this opportunity to update you all on our attendance policy which is on the school website for your information.

Uninterrupted attendance at school is important for learning; however, there will be times when absence is unavoidable and acceptable. This may be due to a variety of reasons including illness or any other exceptional circumstances.

As many of you are aware, attendance is a key issue in all schools post-COVID, and we are no exception. During the summer holidays, the government provided updated statutory guidance for all schools to follow regarding holidays, recording/authorising absence, and in the most extreme circumstances issuing fines to parents for non-school attendance. Our new school policy reflects the updated statutory guidance and underpins the government's strategy that every school day matters. It is also important that our attendance practices are now in line with other schools in our trust, where daily home visits, rigorous attendance monitoring and working alongside parents to secure good school attendance for all pupils is common practice.

As we now have a school attendance officer in place in the form of Miss Colton we are now in a position to work with all stakeholders in order to ensure good attendance for all pupils. If you have any queries relating to school attendance please contact Miss Colton who is only too willing to support you.

This term, we have introduced home visits related to absence, and I understand this is a significant change. These visits are intended as welfare checks and are designed to support families in identifying and accessing additional assistance. They are also a vital tool for keeping families safe and helping children return to school as quickly as possible. Details of how and when home visits are conducted are located within the school's attendance policy which is on the school website for your information.

Whilst I recognise that there is guidance in place from the NHS relating to illness I am aware that you know your child and the nature of their illness best. Sometimes, your child may recover from an illness more quickly than the stated guidance states and be fit for school. We have had requests from some parents stating that their children are now well and asking if they can return to school. In cases of this type we will discuss with you, your child's return to school on an individual basis. Where a child is judged to be contagious – we will continue to follow the NHS guidance for an illness such as chicken pox etc.

We have set a school target of at least 96% for all pupils to attend school each week. Further information about the school target and the updated guidance will be sent to you in our new attendance newsletter at the end of term to give you further information relating to the new policy.

Thank you for your understanding during these changes. I know that you share my commitment to ensuring that our children are in school accessing their learning and all that our lovely school has to offer them.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,