



January 2023

Important School Attendance Notice to All Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the Covid-19 pandemic hopefully now behind us all, it is time to get back to normal - this includes our expectations around school attendance. In line with what the Government expects of us, our minimum expected attendance rate for every student is 96%.

Where students are frequently late to or absent from school, whole classes can be affected. We want to assure you that we are making every effort to ensure that your child's learning is not unduly disrupted by the frequent absence or lateness of other students.

To help parents decide whether they should allow their child a day off school when poorly, The NHS has produced guidance on common illnesses. This guidance is available via NHS – 'Is my child too ill for school?' webpage and underpins our decision on whether the reason provided for absence is to be authorised.

The NHS message is quite clear –

It is ok to allow a child or young person to go to school with some common or minor illnesses.

**Common colds, minor coughs, sore throats or headaches alone
do not mean they are too unwell to attend school.**

Only absences that are UNAVOIDABLE will be authorised at Holland Park Primary School.

Building on this strong focus, we are continuing to work with an external partner, Aquinas (School Attendance Provisions), to help improve the rates of attendance for some students.

Aquinas is a member of The National Association for Support Workers in Education (NASWE) and is accredited by Essex Police under The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). They work very closely with our own internal attendance officer, pastoral teams, SENDCO and leadership team as well as Local Authority's Attendance Compliance Team. Although Aquinas holds a Police Accreditation, the legal enforcement aspect of their role is secondary to their priority of finding a positive, support-centred response to any identified barrier to the regular school attendance of our students.

Please be reminded that all parents are encouraged to contact school at an early stage and to work together to resolve any problems that may arise. This is nearly always successful. If difficulties cannot be resolved in this way and you are invited to attend a meeting at school regarding attendance; please do try to attend, or contact us to explain any difficulties that may be preventing your child from accessing their full educational entitlement.

If you feel a meeting with Aquinas, your child's teacher or our SENDCO would be beneficial to you and/or your child now, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our support is always on offer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Moseley
Headteacher

