

Information for parents: Local schools statement regarding attendance **We are working together for the good of all young people in our community**

It is essential that children and young people form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career. The schools in the Bridport community are committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the responsibility of the family to ensure that their children attend school.

Schools within the Bridport Community have agreed the following:

- No Leave of Absence will be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances (this is in line with DFE guidance September 2013 and is supported by Dorset County Council). This includes making a request for a holiday. An accumulation of unauthorised absences may lead to further action.
- The schools will collectively monitor the attendance of pupils and work closely together with the Local Authority Attendance Team to support children and young people whose attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasion, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. Schools have the right to request evidence of illness and will do so if a child builds up considerable absence through illness over a period of time. If a child's health continues to affect their education schools are obliged to make a referral to the School Medical Officer to ensure that all that can be done, is being done.
- If your child is ill it is the responsibility of the family to ensure that they inform the school. All of our schools operate a 'First Day Call' system, which means that they will contact you and ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return.
- It is important that pupils are on time. Good punctuality is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education; it is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is also monitored by schools and may impact on the absence statistics for you child.
- Because we recognise the importance of education and value good attendance, all schools in our community celebrate good attendance.

The National average for 2014 was 96.1% for primary aged pupils and 94.8% for secondary aged pupils. All the Bridport area schools are all working towards improved attendance levels this academic year.

We are committed to working more closely together on this vital issue.

Children only get one chance at school; your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly.



**This information was produced in collaboration with the schools in our local community.
Please contact your child's school if you require any more information.**