

AS/AI/da/Attendance

13th July 2023



Bloxwich Academy

www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on the latest guidance from the Department for Education regarding attendance in preparation for your child's return to school in September 2023. This guidance, and Bloxwich Academy's attendance policy, reinforces that excellent attendance is central to high levels of academic attainment, as well as preparing pupils for future education and employment. It is crucial that parents/carers ensure that their child is in school and on time each day, unless in exceptional circumstances. If your child is going to be absent from school, then please inform the school by telephone before 8:30am. Attendance is a learned behaviour and if pupils do not attend school regularly then they do not learn the importance of commitment, dependability and good timekeeping.

The government's most recent guidance published last year, states that:

*'The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the **legal responsibility of every parent** to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.'*

The guidance provides statistical evidence showing the negative impact poor attendance has on academic achievement and life chances, when compared with pupils with higher levels of attendance.

From the table below, you can see the impact time off school can have on a pupils' education:

Attendance for ONE Term	In ONE term, your child will have missed	In a YEAR , your child will have missed
90%	1 week, 2 days	4 weeks
80%	2 weeks, 4 days	8 weeks
70%	4 weeks, 1 day	12 weeks
60%	5 weeks, 3 days	16 weeks
50%	7 weeks	20 weeks
40%	8 weeks, 2 days	24 weeks



Bloxwich Academy Secondary
Leamore Lane
Bloxwich, Walsall
West Midlands
WS2 7NR



Matrix
Academy Trust
EDUCATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION

01922 710 257



Bloxwich Academy



@bloxwich_academy



postbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk



If your child has below 90% attendance and they are not in school for health reasons, we will require medical evidence in order to be able to authorise the absence. The government considers any pupils with below 90% attendance to school as persistently absent.

If your child is regularly absent from school and has below 90% attendance, then in addition to home visits to support your child's return to school, the Local Education Authority may take legal action. I would also like to remind you that holidays/trips during term time are not authorised.

Pupils are expected to be onsite by 8.30am and in their form rooms by 8:40am each morning. Where pupils arrive late, they will receive a lunchtime detention the same day in a separate part of the school canteen, with further sanctions for any additional lateness. The table below illustrates potential lost learning across an academic year:

Minutes late PER DAY during a school year	Days of learning lost in a school YEAR
5 mins	4 days
10 mins	7 days
15 mins	11 days
20 mins	14 days
25 mins	21 days

Our updated Attendance and Punctuality Guide is designed to be easy to read and navigate to provide advice and important information about why attendance matters at Bloxwich Academy and the detrimental impact of missing time in school for unnecessary reasons. You can find the link

here: <https://bloxwichacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Attendance-and-Punctuality-Guide-LR.pdf>

I would like to thank you for your support with this crucial matter. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House by calling 01922 710 257 or email postbox@bloxwichacademy.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Seager
Headteacher

Mr A Inglis
Associate Headteacher

