



Seahaven Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

5th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to remind all families of the importance of ensuring that children attend school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so. When pupils miss school, they miss learning. Lessons build upon previous knowledge, meaning that even a small amount of absence can lead to gaps in understanding, reduced confidence and lower outcomes. Over time, these gaps can become significant and make it much harder for a child to fulfil their potential.

Research consistently shows a strong link between school attendance, qualifications and future employment opportunities. Students who attend school regularly achieve better examination results, are more likely to progress into further education or training and generally have access to higher earning opportunities throughout their lives.

Persistent Absenteeism

The Government defines a pupil as Persistently Absent (PA) when their attendance falls below **90%**. Whilst 90% may appear high, it actually means missing approximately one day of school every fortnight, or around 19 school days each year. This is nearly four weeks of lost learning time. Students whose attendance falls below this threshold are at greater risk of underachieving academically and becoming disconnected from school life.

We recognise that children will occasionally feel tired, anxious or slightly under the weather. However, unless a child has a genuine illness that prevents them from attending, we strongly encourage families to send them to school. It is often the case that students who feel reluctant to attend school in the morning settle well once they arrive and go on to have a successful day. Learning resilience and maintaining routines are important life skills, and regular attendance helps children develop both.

Our staff are committed to supporting students who may be experiencing difficulties and will always work with families to ensure appropriate support is in place. If your child is struggling, please contact the attendance team so we can help.

Our legal duty

Schools have a statutory duty to monitor attendance and work with families where concerns arise. When attendance becomes a significant concern, we are duty bound to involve external agencies to ensure that appropriate support is provided for the child and family. As a school we have a duty of care to your child, and persistently absent students will be visited at home by a member of the pastoral and attendance team.

Where attendance remains persistently low despite support and intervention, the school may be required to make referrals to relevant services, including Children's Services where appropriate. In some cases, where concerns suggest that a child's welfare may be affected by prolonged absence from education, schools have a duty to seek support from external agencies to safeguard the child's interests.

In addition, the Local Authority has legal powers to issue Penalty Notices and may pursue further legal action where attendance concerns are not addressed. These measures are always considered a last resort, and our preference is to work collaboratively with families to improve attendance before formal action becomes necessary.



Principal: Mr M Newnham-Reeve

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If you would like support with any attendance concerns, please contact the Attendance Team or your child's Head of Year.

We know that excellent attendance leads to excellent outcomes, and we are committed to working with every family to ensure that all students are present, engaged and able to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Together, we can give every young person the best possible chance of success both in school and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Whitehead
Assistant Principal: Attendance