



# Saint Jude's

## Catholic Primary School

*We live, love and learn together joyfully in Jesus' name.*

17th July 2015

Dear parents,

In school today we had a special assembly to recognise all of the children who achieved 100% attendance this academic year. It was wonderful to note that twenty one children have attended school every day this year and 18 children missed just one day or half a day. Well done to all of these children and their families.

Whilst we do understand that children can be sick and miss time from school, for some children this happens too often. This is something which must change. There is some interesting data about attendance which we would like to share with you:

### **What does your child's attendance figure mean as learning time lost?**

<b>Attendance Figure</b>	<b>Days absent by the end of the school year</b>	<b>School time missed by the end of Year 11</b>
100%	0	0
95%	10	¼ of the year
90%	20	½ of the year
85%	30	¾ of the year
80%	40	1 whole year

The Department for Education expects schools and local authorities to promote good attendance and reduce absences, including persistent absence. This is because we know that missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Young people with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary schools. From September 2015, any child who has less than 90% attendance falls in to the persistent absence category and, as such, may be targeted under the 'Spotlight' campaign; this can result in a fine for parents who do not bring their children in to school without good, justifiable reason.

For some families this year, punctuality has also been a huge concern. Please remember that being late for school reduces learning time. If your child is five minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year. If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss two weeks of learning each year. The doors at school open at 8.50am each day to allow each child to be in class and settled in good time for 9.00am.

We also understand that children may have to attend medical appointments in school time and that hospitals set their own times which you must adhere to. This may mean that they could come in to school before the appointment and return afterwards—it doesn't automatically mean a whole day off. Routine appointments, such as dental check ups, should be made after school hours or during the school holidays. If your child does have a medical appointment in school time, you are required to provide a letter or card as proof.

As a school we work incredibly hard to support all children and their families so as to ensure that everyone can have at least good attendance. If your child is ill or absent for any other reason, please contact the school on the first day of absence; continue to keep us informed if they are ill on any subsequent days. If you are concerned about your child in any way, we can offer support. Please contact myself or our Learning Mentor, Mrs. Orton, if you require any guidance or help in any matter which you feel is having an impact on your child's attendance.

Yours sincerely,

B. M. Smith  
(Deputy Headteacher)

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