Aberdare Cluster Attendance Information

We are aware that the rules and regulations around school attendance are sometimes confusing, especially when these rules differ from school to school. Leaders and Governors from each of the schools in the Aberdare cluster have come together to ensure a more consistent approach.

As a cluster we are committed to providing our pupils with the best possible education based on our core values. In order to make the most of this commitment, children need to attend school regularly. **Research shows that good attendance is closely linked to higher achievement and improved life opportunities as well as the ability to form lasting friendships. Children with good attendance generally achieve more and are happier at school.** On the other hand, frequent absences often lead to lower grades, reduced confidence, and missed opportunities—both in and out of the classroom.

The impact of good attendance: the greater the attendance, the greater the achievement:

The table below shows the direct link between attendance and GCSE grades.

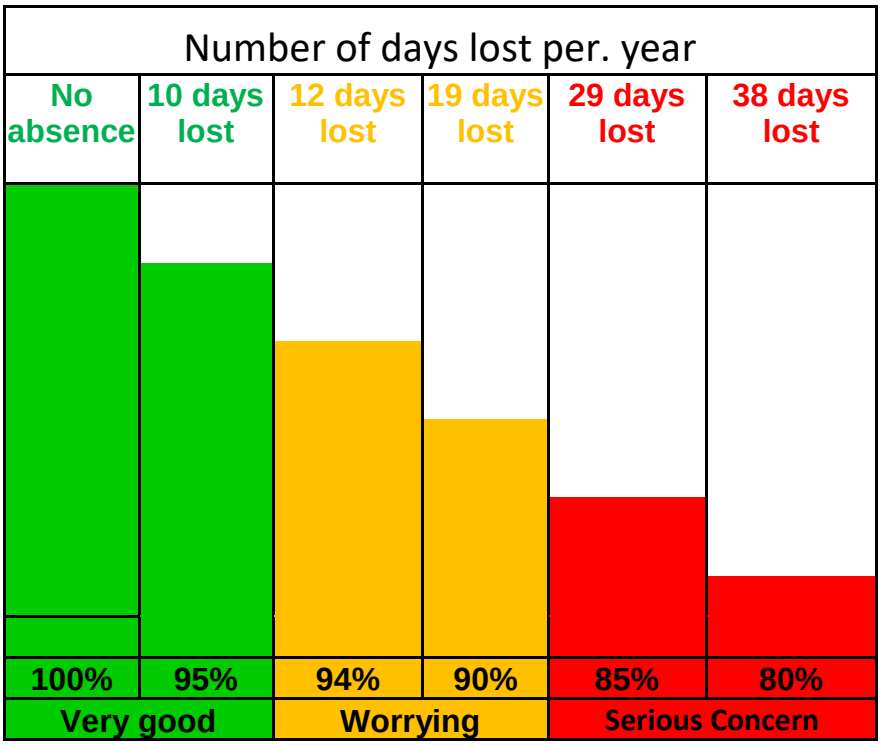
Attendance	Average GCSE Grade
95%+	B
90-95%	C
Below 90%	D

Support for Families

We closely monitor each child's attendance and inform you via letter if your child's attendance is becoming a concern. If there is no improvement during the 3 weeks following the letter, then we will invite you into school for a face to face meeting to discuss any challenges you and your child may be facing so that we can support you deal with these challenges.

Unauthorised Absences

If a pupil is over 30 minutes late, then this is recorded as unauthorised. **If a child is absent with no reason given the absence will be unauthorised. If there is a total of 5 unauthorised days within a term, then a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) may be issued**. If your child is absent, then please provide the school with a reason on the day of absence.



We understand that there are times when your child may be too unwell to attend school or face other unavoidable circumstances which may affect their attendance. However, we kindly ask for your partnership in making school attendance a top priority whenever possible. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Establish a consistent daily routine to ensure your child is prepared and on time.
- Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Communicate with us if your child is facing challenges that affect their attendance. We're here to support your family.

Your support is crucial in helping us provide the best learning experience in order for your child to reach their full potential.