Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

Attendance Matters

"You can't teach an empty chair"

School is not just about education!

Please continue to work with us to encourage and promote good attendance at school.

Bellerive FCJ are committed to rewarding our pupils for their hard work and dedication and offer termly incentives for positive attendance.

#2daysorless is a reward scheme for pupils who have no more than 2 days off per term.

School can offer support to any parents who are struggling to get their child in to school on a daily basis.

Please email contactus@bellerivefcj.org stating 'Attendance concern' and a member of staff will be in touch

For more information re attendance you can find our policies on our school website

www,bellerivefcj.org

The following are NOT considered as a genuine reason for your child to be absent from school:

- Birthdays

- A parent or a sibling is unwell

- To attend a non urgent medical appointment or dental check up. If an appointment is not available after school hours your child must be brought back to school as soon as the appointment is over

- To avoid a friendship issues — please contact your child's Head of year as soon as you are aware of any issues. If your child is not in school we may not be able to resolve the situation

- Holidays during school time must be requested in writing to the Head Teacher.

- General sniffles, headaches and colds - pain relief can be handed in to main reception with a note explaining dosage and time to be given.

Bellerive FCJ Attendance Information and Procedures

Bellerive FCJ considers attendance to be very important.

In an ideal world, we would like all of our students to have 100% attendance. Realistically, this is not always possible, but the Governments expectation is that every child should have a minimum of 95% attendance or above.

This would only allow for a maximum of 10 days absence for illnesses and urgent medical appointments during the full academic year (Sept—July).

This leaflet has been designed to share why attendance is so important and what is expected from Parents and Carers to ensure your children can get the best possible education, learn valuable social skills and make the most of the opportunities available to them through school.

Our pupils' welfare is of paramount importance to us and we believe that regular attendance throughout the year is essential for their success and fulfilment, hence our school expectation is that pupils have at least **97%** attendance.

Did you know….

- Pupils who attend school every day have better **resilience** to deal with life's challenges in the future.

- To achieve our target of 97% attendance means no more than **6 days** off per year.

- If your daughter is 15 minutes late each day throughout the school year they will miss the equivalent of **2 full weeks** of education.

- 90% attendance equates to 4 weeks absence across the academic year—that's 100 lessons!

- Attendance below 80% over five years means that your daughter will miss an **entire year** of education

- The Covid pandemic has affected young people's mental health due to them not being allowed to socialise with their peers.

- Pupils who are frequently absent from school are more likely to be involved in **anti social behaviours** and **crime**

- One of the most effective ways for providing pathways out of poverty is to encourage good attendance at school.

How Bellerive FCJ will monitor your child's attendance

- Form Tutors will engage in conversations with your daughter about their attendance.

- Form Tutor will offer incentives and rewards for good attendance.

- If your daughter's attendance drops to 95% a letter will be sent home to inform you and future absences may not be authorised.

- If your child's attendance drops below 93% you will receive another letter offering support and my be invited in to school to discuss how we can work together to improve attendance

- 90% attendance is considered a persistent absentee and school will then engage with our Education Welfare Officer. Parents may face prosecution.