



## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY AT THE BELLBIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

We trust the information below will help both you and your children to appreciate the need and importance of good attendance, as together we journey for 'success' at The Bellbird.

The government has become significantly more robust in its expectation on school attendance and as such things have become much stricter and absences from school, less acceptable. Schools are advised by the Department for Education (DfE) that the acceptable Persistent Absence (PA) threshold is 10%. If a child does become a 'persistent absentee,' the school and the Local Authority have a legal duty to act to support parents to improve attendance. The school's Education Welfare Officer also monitors attendance levels and regular meetings are held with parents where attendance is a concern.

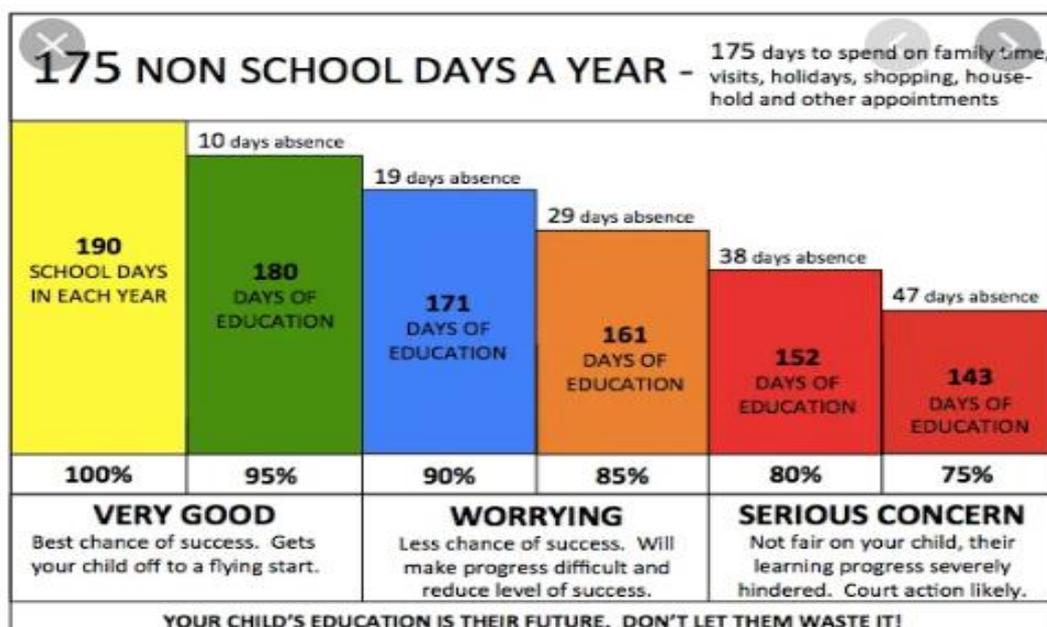
Our whole school attendance target this year (2020) is 95%.

As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our pupils we monitor pupil attendance on a regular basis. During our regular monitoring process we identify any pupil whose attendance causes concern, including those pupils who have arrived late to school on a number of occasions.

At The Bellbird punctuality is extremely important. Arriving late to school not only disrupts the learning of your child but also the rest of the class. Being late to school can have a considerable impact over the whole school year. The table below shows just how much time can be missed over a year just by being late to school every day.

5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year
10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year
15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year
20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year
30 minutes late every day = 19 days of school lost a year

The impact of being late to school, alongside the impact of days of absence, raises grave concerns for staff at The Bellbird.





Below are some ways for you as parents to encourage good attendance for your children:

- Ensure that your child has the correct uniform and equipment.
- Ensure that all school uniform including PE kit and swimming kit when applicable are ready the night before. Encourage your child to help you to do this.
- Find out about your child's absence details and keep your own record.
- Talk regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. Children are more likely to attend if they feel supported and parents/carers speak positively about the school and their class teacher. If you have any concerns, speak to the staff about them, rather than share them with your child.
- Phone the school as soon as possible to tell them of any absence and when you expect your child to return.
- Only allow days at home for genuine illness. Avoid any absence from school for reasons other than your child's illness.
- Have good routines at home to ensure homework is completed and know the school day routines.
- Praise and reward good attendance: even small successes e.g. going in to school promptly.

**Other tips to help secure good attendance:**

- If there is a problem with your child's attendance, talk calmly to your child and listen to the explanation. There is always an explanation. It may seem trivial to you but maybe serious enough to make your child anxious.
- Talk to the school to resolve issues. They may be able to help and support you and your child. You are not alone.
- Be particularly watchful and supportive in the weeks before tests, particularly KS2 SATs.
- Support your child to complete their weekly homework, check homework menu letters and all home school correspondence.

Remember to praise your child. We do acknowledge that most children will have some unavoidable absence because of illness.

It is important that children are not sent to school when they are unwell. It is especially important in the event of a stomach upset that a child has at least 48 hours clear at home after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Encouraging data from Autumn Term September – December 2019

## Total % Attendance

Rec, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 - All Pupils (359 pupils)

Year Group	No. of Pupils	Rec %	Y1 %	Y2 %	Y3 %	Y4 %	Y5 %	Y6 %
Reception	56	97.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year 1	60	94.9%	95.7%	-	-	-	-	-
Year 2	50	97.1%	96.7%	98.0%	-	-	-	-
Year 3	51	94.7%	95.3%	96.9%	97.0%	-	-	-
Year 4	56	95.3%	96.0%	97.1%	96.8%	97.3%	-	-
Year 5	45	94.8%	96.3%	97.3%	97.1%	97.2%	95.5%	-
Year 6	41	95.3%	95.9%	96.2%	97.1%	95.5%	95.7%	97.5%