



# Hugh Sexey

## C of E Middle School

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Focus on Supporting Good School Attendance**

I am writing to express my sincere thanks for a brilliant start to the new school year. We have had fantastic attendance of 97% which is above the national average. As we continue into the year we would like to continue this high attendance and partner with you to ensure all our pupils are in school as often as possible.

You may have seen in recent news, the Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, has publicly highlighted the importance of school attendance as pupils returned for the new term. She has emphasised that regular attendance is crucial for equipping children with skills for life and helping them achieve their aspirations. Every day in the classroom counts!

Here at Hugh Sexey Church of England Middle School, we have high aspirations for all our pupils and expect them to be in school every day they can be.

### **Our Attendance Expectations**

- All pupils should be in school on time every day the school is open
- Notify us as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school
- Ensure medical and dental appointments are arranged outside school hours wherever possible
- Work with us if your child is experiencing barriers to attendance so we can put the right support in place
- Holidays are not taken during term-time

### **Unauthorised Term-Time Leave**

Children have a protected right to full-time education. Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly.

In line with statutory DfE and Wessex Learning Trust guidance, Hugh Sexey Church of England Middle School will not authorise any requests for term-time leave unless the circumstances are both exceptional and unavoidable. Any unauthorised leave that meets the national threshold is likely to result in parents being issued with a Penalty Notice.

### **A Support First Approach**

We appreciate that every family has unique circumstances and we are committed to working with you to overcome any barriers to regular attendance. We will work with you so the right

support can be offered and those barriers overcome. Where needed, we will also work with other services and the Local Authority to ensure the right support is available.

### **Attendance and the Law**

Where there are barriers to attendance, we will always aim to resolve them through support and collaboration before considering legal intervention. Where necessary, however, Hugh Sexey Church of England Middle School will take the necessary action to protect a pupil's right to their education. This may include the issue of a penalty notice or legal action being taken.

If you are worried about your child's attendance or feel there is something we need to be aware of, please contact us on 01934 712211

### **How You Can Help**

- **Set a Routine:** Establish a consistent morning routine to help your child get to school on time.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep track of term dates to ensure your child is in school when they need to be and use the Newsletter, MCAS app and Website for details of news, events and trips
- **Communicate:** Let us know if your child is facing any challenges that may affect their attendance by calling 01934 712211
- **Collaborate:** Work with us and engage with support to help your child attend regularly.

We are committed to supporting you and your child. Together, we can create an inclusive, positive and productive learning environment for all children.

Thank you for your continued support.



Matt Drew  
Head Teacher

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