

17.02.22

RE: Student Attendance Expectations

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Consilium Academies, we are focused on enriching lives and inspiring ambitions, each day we strive to embody our people-centred value so that there is an equitable experience for all our students and staff across the Trust.

The last eighteen months have been extremely challenging and many of our students have demonstrated true resilience in continuing to commit fully to their education over this period. Therefore, we must take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to you for supporting your child through these difficult times and for helping them to see the huge importance of their education.

At Consilium we take attendance very seriously. All our schools recognise the impact excellent attendance has on a student's ability to reach their full potential. Attendance at school not only provides a high-quality educational experience for students in the classroom, but further allows students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to exceed in life beyond the classroom.

As a result, we strive for 100% attendance for all of our 6059 students.

Our attendance target across all our schools is 95% and we expect all students to work towards maintaining at least this attendance figure. We encourage and support our students and their families to understand and appreciate how important a high standard of attendance is and to know that there is a clear correlation between achievement and attendance.

Additionally, it is important for students and parents to understand that 90% attendance equates to a total of four weeks of absence over the year, or half a day per week. This will have a large impact on your child's progress.

At Consilium Academies, we will support students and parents/carers by:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence
- Ensuring every student has access to full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Creating a safe and supportive environment where all students can thrive

When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school, please ask yourself:

- Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home and consult your GP as appropriate.
- Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
- Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

We will follow up **ALL** absences to ascertain the reason and will ensure appropriate safeguarding action is taken where necessary. Schools will communicate to parents/carers alerting them that their child has not arrived. This will be followed up with a phone call to ensure the student is safe and where arrangements can be made to ensure the student returns to school as quickly as possible. A member of staff may visit the student's home to discuss attendance. We target intervention for children whose attendance falls below a target of 95%. If your child does not attend school, they will struggle to make progress and achieve.



In addition to this, at Heworth Grange:

- Students track their attendance fortnightly in the Passport to Success or Passport to Prom to encourage the link between attendance and achievement
- Students who need additional support are matched with member so the staff team to help them improve their attendance and to find solutions to any barriers to punctuality and attendance
- Advisories are part of our attendance league with fixtures each week, we also have our 100 for a 100 competition and attendance is celebrated through rewards and end of term assemblies

We are committed to enriching the lives of all those involved in our Trust through an ambitious, student-centred approach to education. We expect all children to have excellent attendance in order to give themselves the very best chance of succeeding, which will help with their choices in life. Collaboration is the key to success and we will continue to work together to deliver on the promise set out in our mission statement.

May we take this opportunity to thank all of our parents for your support in ensuring that attendance is a high priority for you and your family. If you require any further support around your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or the Attendance Officer at laura.anderson@consilium-at.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tracey Greenough Deputy Chief Executive - School Improvement

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