

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



25th January 2024

Dear parents and carers

The Government has launched a national campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance. From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.

The campaign aims to tackle preventable odd days of absence – or “avoidable absence” – rather than children who face greater barriers to attendance, such as those with long term medical needs or special educational needs and disabilities.

We want to do all that we can working together with children and parents in order to maximise attendance. Please familiarise yourself with the school level appendix of the Trust’s attendance policy which you can find [here](#) so that you are aware of the processes. Please be aware that the steps we need to take to improve attendance are within the guidance and expectations from the local authority and Department for Education. We do not personally devise the content or format of attendance letters, nor do we decide on threshold and/or triggers for letters and actions. We are following the policy.

Important point to note:

- Punctuality at the start of the school day is essential in order for children to feel settled and able to engage fully with their learning. Lateness after the register has been taken and closed at 9:20 am is classified as an unauthorised absence and your child will not receive a present mark for the whole session.
- Parents of pupils falling below 95% attendance will start to receive letters
- Parents of pupils who are late 5 times on a term will start to receive letters

Registered address:
Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
Holworthy Training and Business Centre
Western Road, Holworthy, Devon, EX22 6DH

01409 259 613

Company number: 11075564
Registered in England and Wales

Trust governance team
governance@dmatschools.org.uk

Community contact
community@dmatschools.org.uk

Recruitment and references
recruitment@dmatschools.org.uk

Media enquiries
communications@dmat.org.uk



dartmoormat.org.uk

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

- 1) Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.
- 2) Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the Principal can authorise an absence.
- 3) A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed

We want to do all that we can to promote and incentivise good attendance, this will be featured in newsletters and announced in celebration assemblies in order to celebrate what is working well. We will also be introducing regular updates to parents regarding the child(rens) attendance data.

We already work closely with a number of families to support attendance and completely understand that from time to time there are challenges, please talk to the teacher or contact any member of staff. Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together.

Kind regards

Lisa Paton

Hub Principal

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

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Attendance %	Rating	Days absent over a school year	Description
100%	Perfect Attendance	0	This is the best chance of success for your child
97%	Good Attendance	5	
95%	Improvement Required	9	Less chance of your child succeeding as it is harder for them to make progress – Support will be offered to remove any barriers to attendance
92%	Concern	19	
90% (persistent absence)	Serious Concern **	30	Serious Concern Missing this much education can cause a significant disadvantage to your child. An attendance support plan will be put in place to ensure your child's attendance can improve. Without improvement to attendance the consequence could be legal action.

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