

To Parents/Carers

21st November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Attendance at School

I am writing to you to raise awareness about the importance of consistent and punctual attendance. Over the course of the Covid years, this has understandably been impacted in terms of pupils being in and out of school, and you will be aware of concerns nationally over increased absence rates. There is a clearly established relationship between attendance and both academic success and well-being, that is supported with evidence from the DfE Education Hub.

- Pupils with higher levels of attendance across Years 10 and 11 achieved better grades, compared to those with lower levels of attendance.
- In 2023 pupils at Saint Cecilia's in Year 11 who had attendance over 95% achieved on average over 1 grade higher per subject than those whose attendance was below 85%.

Although the data above refers to pupils in Years 10 and 11, establishing positive attendance habits begins in Year 7 and extends into the Sixth Form.

Whilst attendance figures at Saint Cecilia's have remained above the national average, I do wish to remind parents and carers of the importance of strong attendance and ask for support in ensuring this.

I understand that in exceptional circumstances, mainly relating to physical or mental health, attendance and punctuality may be affected. However, I would greatly appreciate everyone's support in ensuring that, wherever possible, pupils and students are in school on time and consistently, and that other absences (for example, regular medical appointments) occur outside school hours.

I have attached a copy of a poster which we are also sharing with pupils and students, to help them understand the impact of lost learning and its effect on their ability to engage with their education and future success.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Renata Joseph
Headteacher