

4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear parents/carers,

## Attendance

You may have heard that there is a problem nationally with attendance in schools. Sadly, The Grove is seeing this problem too.

Research has highlighted the clear link between poor attendance and low academic achievement, stating that 'failure to attend school regularly can have a major impact on young people's education, their future and their life chances' (DFE).

It is the right of every young person to receive a full time education and the responsibility of parents, pupils and school staff to work collaboratively to ensure that each child has the best opportunity of achieving their full potential.

Section 8 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on parents to ensure that their children receive efficient full-time education if they are of compulsory school age.

### PARENTS ATTENDANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents must:

Ensure their child is on time to school every day and that their attendance percentage remains in line with the school's attendance targets.

Notify the school as soon as possible if their child cannot attend for any reason.

Provide an explanation for their child's absence on the first day and every subsequent day of absence

Provide medical evidence for their child's absence if requested.

Request leave of absence in advance of any known unavoidable absence.

Work with the school and Education Welfare Officer to resolve/alleviate any attendance problems.

Attend meetings as required in relation to their child's attend.

Sadly, we have a lot of children who are classed by the Department for Education as persistent absentees (under 90%). This week I have seen the list and as a head teacher of The Grove, who is ultimately responsible for the education of your children, this saddens me and I need to address this.

In light of this information I ask you to please let us know if there is anyway we can support you with attendance and I ask you to please make sure your children are coming in to school if they can.

As a team, we have decided that children who are not attending school regularly will not be able to go out on sport's events in school as they can't afford to miss more school time. These opportunities will be offered to other children so that we can use the time in school wisely. This is a shame as these sessions offer value development but our priority to your child, is that the curriculum education that is being missed is made up.

I hope you understand where I am coming from with this. I do appreciate that sometimes children are poorly and that unique extenuating circumstances may mean that attendance below 90% is unavoidable e.g. in cases of longterm illness where medical evidence has been provided. However, I am also aware that sometimes the effort isn't being made to get children in to school.

Together we can make a difference. I thank you for your support with this.

Kind regards



Mrs Cheeseman