**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL**



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Dear Parents/Carers

**ATTENDANCE/LATES**

Our Network of schools have been chosen to be part of an Attendance Pilot Project whose key aim is to increase attendance, reduce persistent absence (PA) and reduce lateness. This is because, as a Network, our attendance lags behind National expectation of **97%** - our current school average weekly attendance is **94%.**

**There is a direct correlation between poor attendance and punctuality and poor progress and attainment.**

The National Lockdowns, together with the effects of self-isolations have impacted significantly on our attendance and how we have had to record absences. **In order for attendance to improve, we need parents and school to work together and support each other to bring the children into school each day on time.**

From Tuesday 6th May, there will be some modifications to our attendance and punctuality procedures:

-First Response phone call will still take place;

-Second Response phone call will now take place for those children whose attendance is a concern;

-Third Response phone call/visit will take place where necessary

The vast majority of our families understand the importance of excellent attendance in school and we have a high proportion of children with 98-100% attendance. However, for those children who have poor attendance, the Department for Education (DfE) has recognised that, ‘persistent failure to send children to school is a clear sign of neglect’. The NSPCC has cited, ‘failure to ensure regular school attendance which prevents the child reaching their full potential academically’ as one of their six forms of neglect.

‘Working together to safeguard children’ provides a neglect description, ‘The **persistent failure** to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the **serious impairment** of the child’s health or **development**’.

Punctuality is also still a problem for a minority of children in school. There will be times, due to unforeseen circumstances, that a child maybe late to school and we understand this. But, where there is a pattern of ‘lates’, parents will be asked to come into school and speak with myself and Mrs Hughes to find out how we can support you to bring your child in on time every day.

If you do bring your child to school late, you must **first report to the main reception gate in ‘little’ Peter Rd to inform the office staff.** You will then be directed to the gate your child normally enters and be expected to take them to their classroom door and exit from the gate you would be expected to exit from.

Please be aware that if your child is late, they will miss crucial phonics learning and may feel anxious entering their class. Let us work together to get every child in on time and ensure that no one is hindered in their learning and progress.

Kind regards

L Melia

Headteacher