



St Dunstan's Catholic School

Drayton Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7LP



As we grow with God, we learn from each other

18th January 2024

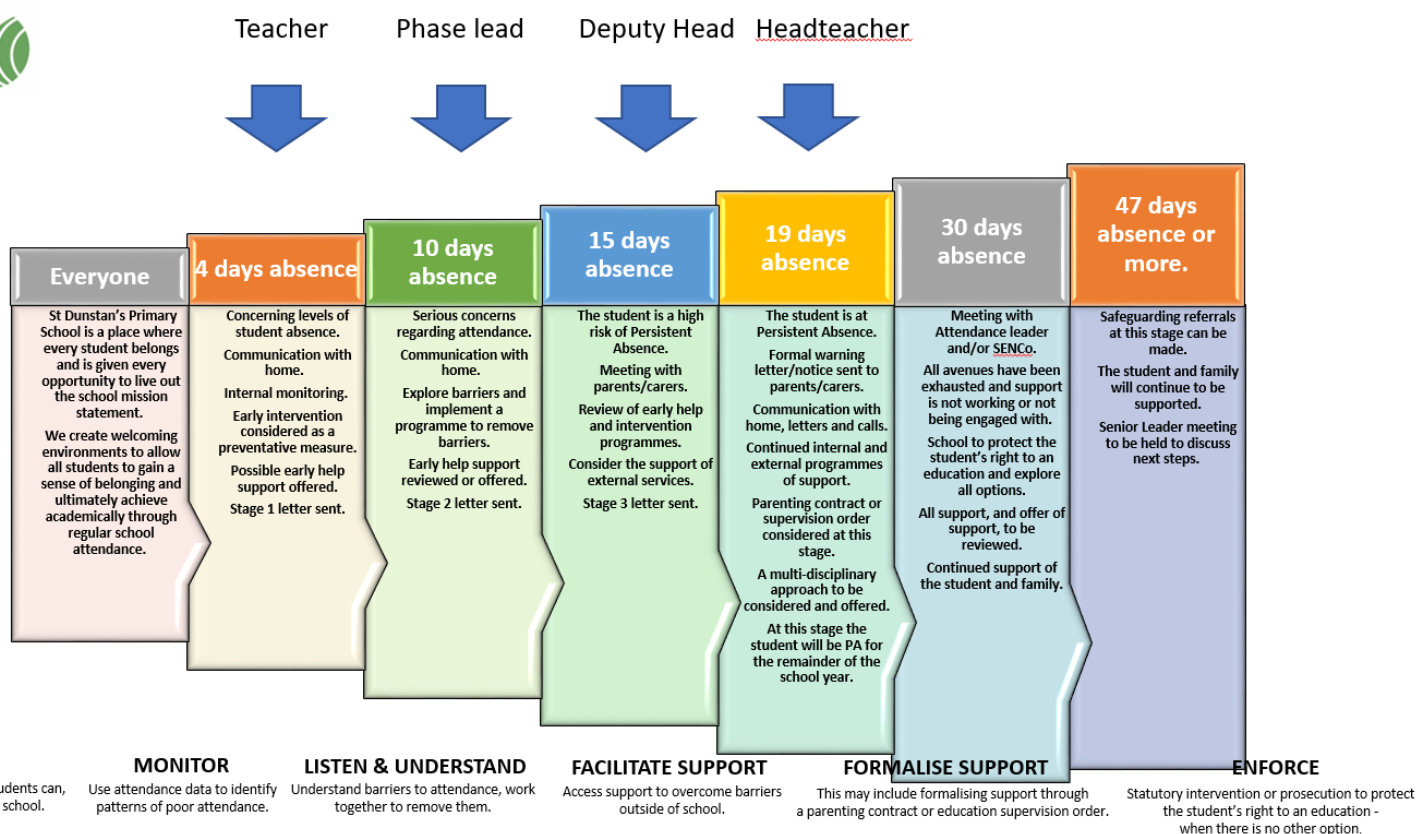
Re: Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governors and staff at St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School are united in their belief that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them.

I am sure that you will have read and seen the recent media coverage about the Government's concerns about parental attitudes to attendance over the last few weeks, and the concerning number of days that some parents are allowing their children to have off school. Thankfully, the majority of our families understand the importance of your child being at school when they are well enough to attend.

We would like to remind you of the Five Foundation Approach that we follow for Attendance, and the member of staff that will now be involved if your child reaches a particular stage.





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If your child reaches a new stage, or is close to the next stage, you will be contacted by the relevant person. We appreciate that some children may already be at this stage, so contact will be made when they reach the next one. You can also contact the school office at any time for this information.

First Day Contact

At St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School, we expect our parents to make contact at the earliest opportunity on the first day of any absence. We will always contact you via text message first, then by calling you. Where we have on-going concerns regarding your child's attendance, we will visit your home address and write to you. We may even invite you to meet with a member of staff to discuss any on-going concerns regarding attendance. It is important that you talk to us first; you are legally responsible under Education Act 1996 for ensuring that your child is in school every day and on time.

If we cannot make contact with you, we will continue to make announced and unannounced home visits, regarding any concerns we may have surrounding attendance at St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School.

Policy for dealing with absence:

Day 1 – Absence text to main contact held on SIMS, follow up by telephone call if no response.

Day 3/4 – Home visit, carried out by The Attendance Team

Day 5 – Follow up home visit, carried out by The Attendance Team

Day 10 – Request PSCO Welfare check

There may be some instances in which school needs to address absence in a different manner and the following steps will be followed:

Day 1 – Phone call to main contact held on SIMS, follow up by telephone call if no response.

Day 2 – Home visit, carried out by The Attendance Team

Day 3 – Follow up home visit, carried out by The Attendance Team

Day 4 – Request home visit, carried out by The Cluster OnStreet Service



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Day 5 – Request PSCO Welfare check

Day 10 – 101 Report

Alongside this monitoring, you will have noticed that we have also started a new incentive in school in order to promote good attendance – St Dunstan's Attendance Premier League. Each class will play another class and the class which has the most children in that week will win 3 points. Results and fixtures will be shared on Twitter, our school website and in the newsletter. This news will also be shared with children in class, at whole school assemblies and displayed in our school hall. The overall winners will receive a reward at the end of each half term.

With the increased scrutiny on schools to be proactive in addressing poor attendance, we make no apologies for doing everything we can to make sure our children are in school every day and enjoying their learning.

Our Attendance Policy is available on the School Website here:

[St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School - Attendance \(stdunstans.bham.sch.uk\)](http://stdunstans.bham.sch.uk)

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's Phase Leader or a member of SLT (Mr Tehan, Mrs Keating & Mrs Baker)

Kind regards,

Mr Tehan
Headteacher