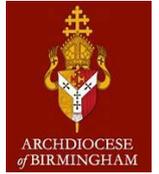




# St Dunstan's Catholic School

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



*As we Grow With God, We Learn From Each Other*

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Being around teachers and friends in a school or college environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

*"Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development.*

*Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.*

*Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well". Department of Education 2023*

New Attendance legislation came into force on 19th of August which impacts how Local Authorities and Schools issue Penalty Notices (fines) for unauthorised absences. Central to the statutory guidance for schools is the premise that schools should identify when a pupils' attendance is becoming a concern and then work alongside parents and pupils to remove any barriers to attendance.

Birmingham Local Authority have adopted the DFE's **Support First Attendance Framework** approach:

- We will notify you if you're child's attendance is a concern and start a conversation with you to understand the reasons why and if we can offer any support.
- If you receive a letter, telephone call, invite to a meeting it is important that you engage with these so that we can understand any reasons for absence and agree support, if appropriate.
- If we agree an action plan with you to help improve attendance it is important that those agreements are followed.

For further information, please refer to our School Attendance Policy and Birmingham City Council guidance documents available on the school website.

Yours sincerely

M Tehan  
Headteacher