

Working together to improve school attendance

The Governors and staff within South Petherton Junior School recognise that attendance is an important aspect of attainment, wellbeing & wider development for all children. So that parents have a full understanding of how the school will work with families to support this, the following chart will be used to ensure clarity of approach.

Please be reassured that we do understand that genuine illness is unavoidable and we remind parents to check the NHS guidance if unsure whether to send their child to school (see school website – *'is my child too ill for school?'*).

Please be aware that our **school attendance target is in line with the national target of 95%**. If your child's attendance falls below this, the following may occur:

Stage 1 School & National expectation

Attendance 95–100%

Children who have 100% attendance will receive a half-termly award.

Children who show significant improvement in their attendance will also be recognised.

Stage 2 Initial concern at potential to be below expectation

Attendance 90–94%

1st letter sent by school to parent/carers sharing number of sessions absent and overall attendance percentage at the end of the half-term. In-school support offered if required.

Attendance monitored over a four-week period & further home/school communication if appropriate.

Please note that any unauthorised term time leave greater than 10 sessions (5 days) may be referred to the Attendance Caseworker and Penalty Notices may be issued.

Stage 3 Risk of Persistent Absence (PA)

Attendance below 90%

2nd letter sent by school to parents/carers – continued in-school support or, if no improvement, request for a 'Team Around the School' meeting. This may result in multi-agency support eg. PFSA (Parent & Family Support Advisor) and FIS (Family Intervention Service). An Attendance Casework Officer from ESS (Education Safeguarding Service) will be informed, and your child/ren's attendance will be monitored at County level.

Stage 4 Severe Absence

Attendance below 50%

3rd letter sent by school to parents/carers – continued statutory intervention and high risk of legal intervention for unauthorised absence.