



*'Where the children are at the heart  
of everything we do.'*



Headteacher: Mrs Karen Appleby, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH  
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lucy Cross, BA (Hons), QTS

05/07/2024

Dear Parents/Carers

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to 'Working together to improve school attendance'. These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. For some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. This is why schools, and local councils, are committed to working together with families to solve problems and support your child's school attendance.

<b>95%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 9.5 days or 1 week & 4.5 days of learning missed
<b>90%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 19 days or 3 weeks & 4 days of learning missed
<b>85%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>143 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 28.5 days or 5 weeks & 3.5 days of learning missed
<b>80%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 38 days or 7 weeks & 3 days of learning missed
<b>75%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>237.5 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 47.5 days or 9 weeks & 2.5 days of learning missed

**EVERY  
DAY  
MATTERS!**

**WHAT DO YOUR  
ATTENDANCE  
FIGURES ACTUALLY  
MEAN?**

PERCENTAGES BASED ON 190  
ACADEMIC DAYS

### Important Update – Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices

One of the major changes for parents/carers is that previously some schools followed the DfE recommendations and issued a fine for holidays taken in term time. We as a school made a decision not to do this, as it was just a recommendation.

Now the threshold has changed and is mandatory from 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The threshold has changed significantly and this is no longer just for time taken off for term time holidays.

Kinraig Road, Blackpool. FY2 0HN Tel: 01253 354059 Email: [admin@kinraig.blackpool.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kinraig.blackpool.sch.uk)



The new threshold where a penalty notice **must** be considered is:

- set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of un-authorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period (School half term holidays are not included in this 10 week period.) This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes, un-authorised illness and in fact any un-authorised absence. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- Attendance data will also go with a child to their new school.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution).
- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.

**\*Please note that any money paid for the penalty notice will go straight to the Local Authority and not the school.\***

## **What are my responsibilities for my child's attendance?**

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable full time education, usually from the age of 5 to 16.

For most parents, this will mean making sure your child is in school every day except when:

- Your child is too ill to go to school.
- Your religious body has a day especially for religious observance.
- Your local council is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet.
- Your child does not have a permanent address and you are required to travel for work. (This exception only applies if your child attends their usual school or another school where you are staying as often as possible. This must be 200 half days or more a year if they are aged 6 or older.)
- You have permission for a leave of absence from your child's school for them not to attend. You should only ask for this in exceptional circumstances.

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## Exceptional circumstances

From 19/08/24 I am not allowed to authorise absence for any term time holidays. I can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances.

The DfE are very clear that family holidays are not exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstance is classified as something that is unexpected, unavoidable, and outside of a family's control.

A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant background context behind the request. Including the length of time the pupil will need to be absent for.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually.

There is an exceptional circumstances request form which will need to be filled in by the parents/carers if this is necessary.

I know it can be confusing and this is a long letter, but I have tried to simplify the guidance as much as possible, to make it very clear what is going to happen from September 2024, to ensure that you are all fully aware of the new regulations and what they may mean for you.

As always, we will work together to ensure that our children get the best education they can receive whilst they are at KinCraig and we will support you in doing this.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Appleby  
Headteacher

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