Mulberry
Academy Bexhill

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Attendance Support and Graduated Response

Working Together to Support Excellent Attendance

At Bexhill Academy, we believe that every day in school matters. Good attendance helps students achieve their best academically, build positive relationships, and benefit from all aspects of school life.

We understand that there can sometimes be barriers that make attending school difficult. Our aim is to work in partnership with students and families to identify concerns early, provide support, and help every student attend school regularly.

Our Graduated Response to Attendance Concerns

We follow a clear graduated approach to attendance support. This means that the level of support increases if attendance continues to be a concern.

Stage 1: Early Identification and Support

When attendance begins to decline, we will:

- Monitor attendance carefully.
- Contact parents/carers on the first day of absence.
- Identify any emerging attendance patterns.
- Discuss any concerns with students and families.
- Provide information, guidance and encouragement.
- Signpost students to support available within school.

At this stage, we aim to understand any barriers to attendance and work together to prevent concerns from becoming more serious.

Stage 2: Additional Support

If attendance continues to fall, further support may be offered. This may include:

- Meetings with the student's Head of Year.
- Attendance mentoring and pastoral support.
- Student voice discussions.
- Attendance contracts and improvement plans.
- Attendance rewards and recognition.
- Support for students with identified additional needs.

The focus remains on understanding the reasons for absence and agreeing practical strategies that will help improve attendance.

Stage 3: Attendance Support Plan

Where attendance remains a concern, families may be invited to an Attendance Support Plan meeting.

The Attendance Support Plan is a personalised approach designed to:

- Understand the individual circumstances affecting attendance.
- Identify barriers that may be preventing regular attendance.

- Agree support strategies between home and school.
- Set realistic and achievable attendance targets.
- Create a clear plan for improvement.

During the meeting, parents/carers play an important role in helping to develop the plan and agree actions that will support their child.

Reviewing the Plan

Attendance Support Plans are reviewed regularly, usually after four weeks.

At each review meeting we will:

- Look at progress towards agreed targets.
- Celebrate improvements and success.
- Adjust support where needed.
- Agree any further actions.
- Decide whether the plan can be closed or whether additional support is required.

The Attendance Team works closely with Year Teams to ensure reviews take place at the appropriate time.

Stage 4: Enhanced and Specialist Support

For students experiencing significant attendance difficulties, additional support may be considered. This may include referrals to services within school or external agencies where appropriate.

The aim is always to remove barriers and ensure students and families can access the support they need.

Stage 5: Formal Intervention

If attendance does not improve despite support being offered and engagement with the Attendance Support Plan process, further action may be considered.

This could include formal attendance procedures and, where appropriate, statutory interventions in line with national guidance.

Our Commitment

We are committed to:

- Listening to students and families.
- Understanding the reasons behind absence.
- Working collaboratively to find solutions.
- Providing timely support.
- Celebrating attendance improvements and successes.
- Ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive in school.

Who to Contact

If you are concerned about your child's attendance, please contact their Head of Year in the first instance. We

encourage families to speak with us early so that we can work together to provide the right support at the right time.