

## Student Attendance

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [‘Is my child too ill for school?’](#) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their peers when they miss school. At Mount Tamar School we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our students in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

We also know that you can have a significant effect on student absences this academic year and we would really appreciate your help and support ensuring that students come to school every day so that they can get the best possible outcomes. We want to work with you to achieve this so please call us or arrange to come in and meet your child's class teacher if there is anything we can do to support you or your child. We appreciate that every family's situation is unique.

We would like to share with you our attendance expectations and what our procedure is regarding repeated absence and resulting welfare checks. I have attached a flow chart to explain this further.

What YOU can do:

- Phone or email the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence. Our attendance line is 07912 216579.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses, or there are any issues with, transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend. It is your responsibility to ensure your child can access education in the event that school transport is unavailable.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone or text home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.