

## 'Attend Every Day' – The Garibaldi School Approach to School Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have high attendance expectations for all our children. Our attendance team are proud to be working in partnership with families and they aim for each child to have **less than 4 missed days of school per year**.

Through our parent focused apps and monitoring reports you are able to see your child's attendance percentage. To help you better understand what that percentage means, below are examples of the number of school days missed. The link between attendance and achievement is extremely strong. When a child is not in school they cannot learn. Last year, a student with:

- below 95% (+10 days absence) achieved roughly 1 grade lower than a child with +95% in all subjects
- below 90% (+19 days absence) achieved roughly 2 grades lower than a child with +95% in all subjects
- below 80% (+38 days absence) achieved roughly 3 grades lower than a child with +95% in all subjects

98% =	4 days missed
96% =	8 days missed
94% =	12 days missed
92% =	16 days missed
90% =	19 days missed
85% =	29 days missed

In a recent Department for Education report it highlighted that over the long term every 5% of absence in a child's time secondary education could reduce their average earnings by £5000 per year by the age of 28.

**Your child's attendance is the most significant factor in them achieving their potential and is key to them going on to lead happy and successful lives.**

In September 2024, the government made policy changes, regarding unauthorised absences. Please carefully note the following implications that apply to all children and their families:

### Stricter Enforcement

- Schools are able to issue a penalty notice if a child has 10 unauthorised absences over 10 consecutive school weeks.
- Missing 1 morning **or** afternoon register = 1 unauthorised absence.
- A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session.
- The first penalty notice = £160 if paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- If you get a second fine in 3 years it will be £160. If you do not pay the fine in 28 days you may be taken to court for keeping your child out of school.
- If your child is off school 3 or more times within the 3 years you will not be fined but may be taken to court.

### Term Time Holidays

- In line with government and local authority guidance term time holidays will not be authorised.
- Holiday fines will be enforced for five or more days absence. These fines will be £80 per child affected, per parent. Fines not paid in 21 days will be £160 per child, per parent.

- Fines will be enforced where parents/carers inform the school about term time holidays or where the school is made aware of term time holidays being taken.

### Unauthorised absences

- In line with updated guidance we will be making required changes relating to the authorisation of absence.
- As a result, the reasons for absence below will not be routinely authorised – this is not an exhaustive list.
- We appreciate this will mark a change in approach. We can offer reassurance that students will be supported in school if they are not feeling 100% and we will work with parents and carers.
- This change will help support students and families to maximise school attendance.

Term Time holidays	No communication from parents	Tiredness from trips / activities	No medical evidence for GP, dentist.	Injuries that can be supported in school
Coughs and colds	Headaches	Feeling sick	Hay fever	Sore throats
Refusal to attend	Migraines unless diagnosed by GP	Period Pains	Cold Sores	Conjunctivitis
External sporting/music activities unless evidenced	Mental Health without advice from medical practitioner	Friendship issues and upset about previous incidents	Family emergency without explanation	Only 1 day allowed for religious observance
Sun Burn	Head Lice and Nits			

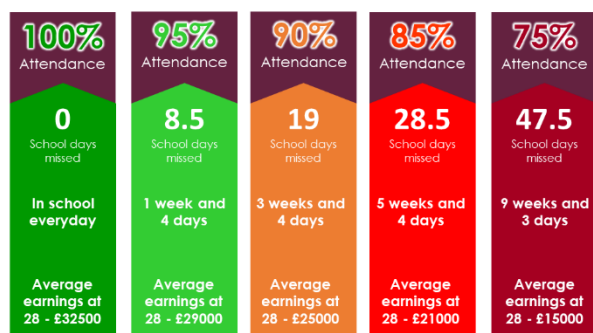
### How you can support the best attendance for your child

- Say to your child "It's always better to attend."
- Make sure they are in school on time.
- Call us when you need support or guidance on attendance.
- Positively promote your child's attendance to school and celebrate their successes.



THE  
GARIBALDI  
SCHOOL

**Attend,  
every day...**



The key phrase we use with children and families is to 'Attend Every Day', whilst recognising and supporting students that are improving their resilience in attending school. When there are circumstances beyond your control that affect your child's attendance, we will always be here to support and guide you.

For those children that need support and guidance in improving their attendance, our attendance and pastoral teams will be contacting relevant families before the end of the summer term. There is also still a chance to share any concerns or request support via the following survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/kKnXNtxKhm>

**and every minute counts....**



We're sharing an updated infographic (see left) which captures some of the key reminders about attendance and its impact. We will be using this with students in school.

We'd also like to share an update to our approach to sanctions for late arrival for school. We expect students to be on site for 8.25 at the latest to ensure they can get to their Mentor base in good time. **If a student arrives late – after the main gate closes at 8.30 - this will now incur a 30-minute detention at the end of the day on the same day.**

Thank you for your ongoing support for your child's attendance to school. We look forward to working in partnership with you over this academic year to help ensure they are happy, successful and fulfilled in school.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance to school, please contact Mrs Kapler (Attendance Officer [lkapler@garibaldischool.co.uk](mailto:lkapler@garibaldischool.co.uk)) or Mr Dawson (Deputy Headteacher [mdawson@garibaldischool.co.uk](mailto:mdawson@garibaldischool.co.uk)).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MD', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Martin Dawson

Deputy Headteacher