



Ref: RCH/Attendance/lw
2 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Attendance to School

At the Link Academy, we value every moment of learning and pride ourselves in maintaining the highest possible levels of attendance for all learners. Whilst the last two years have provided us with many challenges around school attendance, we are proud that the attendance levels at the Link Academy have remained consistently above the national average and this was recognised in our recent OFSTED inspection, where all areas of attendance were highlighted as Good. This is a success which we must build on to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our learners.

Therefore, we are urging all parents and carers to ensure that they send their children into school **every day**. This is to enable them to make the most of every learning opportunity and gain the most that they can from their time at the Link Academy. Particularly as there is a **direct link between good attendance and achievement** of good GCSE grades by the end of Year 11.

As we move into the second half of the Autumn Term, we want to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of the importance of punctuality and regular attendance. Please can you make time to talk to your child(ren) and remind them that:

- All learners must be at their period 1 classroom for 8:40am to ensure a purposeful start to each day's learning.
- All learners must arrive to each lesson swiftly to ensure that each learning opportunity is maximised.

At the Link Academy we value our close working relationships with our parents and carers and know that this collaborative approach to education means that we can work together to support learners in gaining the most from every day at the academy.

As a result of this, we will be increasing our communication with home regarding attendance and academy events using WEDUC and Class Charts. Please can you ensure you have downloaded these apps in order to receive these vital messages. Please can you also make sure we have your current telephone number in case of emergencies. This increased communication will ensure that you are kept informed of any issues surrounding your child's attendance, punctuality and any illness that they have while at school.



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Through discussions with parents and carers so far this year, we have identified several simple things that parents and carers can do to reinforce the importance of regular attendance and ensure a positive start to each school day:

- Help your child(ren) to develop a night-time routine – a regular bedtime is key to ensuring that students get enough sleep and are rested and ready for each day of learning.
- Limit time on devices – having an agreed ‘switch-off’ time for electronic devices can be key to building positive relationships and supports learners in being able to relax at home.
- Build a morning routine – ensuring that learners have breakfast supports a healthy start to the day and boost their metabolism which will allow them to be more alert and make more of each learning opportunity. Breakfast clubs are available to attend here at the Link Academy.
- Learners can often feel worse in the morning – if your child is feeling unwell but can come into school, please make sure that they do. Please call us if this is the case and we can monitor them throughout the day. We will always contact you if your child is too unwell to continue at school. We find that this approach often reduces the amount of time lost to avoidable absence.

Whilst we can see the immediate benefits of regular school attendance, it is also key to remember that we are often contacted by colleges, training providers and employers to enquire about attendance levels of learners at Key Stage 4. A good attendance record goes a long way to ensuring a positive first impression of a learner in terms of their future.

There will be times when learners are too unwell to attend and we will continue to work with families to support them in getting their child back into school as soon as possible. We are always happy to work with external agencies to provide additional support where required. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you need support.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support in ensuring that all learners at the Link Academy experience excellent education every day.

Attend today, achieve tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Chater
Assistant Principal.



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