

Educational Services

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Dear Parent/Carer,

School Attendance – Every Learner, Every Day

Attendance across Scotland

Absence rates have increased following the Covid 19 pandemic and improving attendance is currently a national priority for the Scottish Government. There are 190 days in a school year (38 weeks). If a child attends every day, they will have 100% attendance at the end of the year. In 2022/23, the average attendance of a secondary school student in Scotland was 87.7%. **This means that the average pupil missed 24 days of school across the year – nearly 5 weeks of learning.**

Kyle Academy Attendance

Across South Ayrshire Schools, the average attendance of secondary pupils last session was 86.6%. The average attendance of pupils at Kyle Academy last session was 87.4 %. **This means that our young people missed 24 days of school on average last year. Missing a total of five weeks of learning has a huge impact on progress and attainment.**

Going forward, South Ayrshire Council (SAC) has set a target of 97% for average attendance. **This is a maximum of 6 days absence in the year.**

The information (below) provides an overview of attendance for our pupils since our return from the summer break i.e. **The first 7 days back at school;**

Pupil attendance in school	No of days of school missed	No of pupils	% of pupils of school roll
100%	0	666	78%
90% - 99%	½	43	5%
80% - 89%	1	54	6%
70% - 79%	2	14	1%
60% - 69%	2½	22	2½%
50% - 59%	3	26	3%
Less than 50%	4 or more	18	2%



DID YOU KNOW?

During Covid, schools closed for 54 days during session 2019/20 and another 54 days in session 2020/21. Pupils with less than 75% attendance are missing more school than they did in lockdown.

Why is school attendance so important?

Our children need to be in school and not only for knowledge and qualifications. Attendance at school develops relationships, supports friendships and the feeling of wellbeing that comes from being part of a community. Children learn to connect with their friends, make new friends and build relationships with classmates and teachers. This helps to foster a strong personal identity and feeling of belonging to their school community. Children also benefit from the positive influence they can have on each other to achieve their goals, learn from shared experiences and grow together from day-to-day school attendance.

We are also very aware that while most children attend school regularly, for some, school and the school environment can feel incredibly overwhelming and be a major cause of stress and anxiety. Growing up can be daunting. Learning can be tough, where expectations can at times feel unmanageable. Again, where relationships and supports from friends and key adults in the school community have been developed and are regularly accessed, children learn to cope with daily school life and achieve small successes that allow them to grow in confidence and happiness.

Senior Phase children – S5 and S6

If your child has a study column on their timetable, they need to ensure that they attend the designated study class so that their attendance can be recorded. Children who do not attend their designated study class are recorded as absent and a text message will be sent home. Period discrepancies such as this can accumulate over time and reduce their overall attendance rate.

Similarly, our S6 children have permission to be out of school for 4 periods per week. Many will use this time for driving lessons, part-time work or home study and revision. We ask that the school office have a record of these periods so that our attendance system can be coded correctly. S6 children must ensure that their periods have been shared and confirmed with the school office to provide permission to be out of school at these times.

What is authorised absence?

Your child can be off school if;

- They are ill
- It has been agreed that they should not attend school i.e. part-time timetable
- They need to attend meetings prior to, and during court appearances/other legal processes
- They are attending a Children's Hearing or care review, or appointment with another service provider, e.g. social worker
- They need to attend a religious ceremony
- Someone close to them has died
- They need to attend a wedding or funeral of close friends of family
- There is an arranged absence in relation to children and young people in Gypsy/Traveller families;
- They are participating in non-school debates, sports, musical or drama activities agreed by the school

90% =
19 days
absent

85% =
29 days
absent

What is unauthorised absence?

An unauthorised absence is when your child is absent from school and there has been no valid reason given as to why.

Your child's attendance will be recorded as unauthorised if;

- They are not in school with or without parental/carer awareness
- They are on a family holiday during school term time
- There are school related issues e.g. conflict with peers/teacher
- There are home/community issues e.g. Social media

What can you do to help us get it right?

Keep in touch with us. If your child does need to be off school for valid reasons and therefore have their attendance authorised, please contact the school office on **01292 612338** or email us at kyle.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk and tell us why they need to be off.

We also understand, that at times, there can be exceptional, unique situations which can arise without any warning. Again, keep us informed by contacting us. In these circumstances, our guidance team will be happy to help and can discuss any situation with you to ensure we are fully aware and can support your child effectively.

Supporting your child's attendance

Our aim is for all our young people to be happy, confident and achieving by attending school every day. During this term we will

- **Share your child's attendance level this term**
- **Thereafter, monitor attendance and update you via text message – timeline attached**
- **Contact you when we need to confirm reasons for absence**
- **Celebrate excellent attendance at the end of the term via e-certificate**

Best Wishes



Johnny Little
Depute Head Teacher

