

St. Wilfrid's Catholic (VA) Primary School and Nursery



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Headteacher Mrs G O'Brien

Autumn Term Notification

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Dear Parents and carers,

As you know from January 2019, St Wilfrid's adopted the Wigan Council's system with regards to authorised attendances. I'm sure you agree it has simplified the rules about how we record absences from school. Attached is your formal notification of the Educational Penalty Notices from Wigan Local Authority for the new Autumn Term.

As parents, you are legally responsible for making sure that your child has an education; this means you must ensure that they are in school. If they cannot come for any reason, please tell us. You may have seen news stories about parents removing their children from school for family holidays. Legally, parents don't have the right to do this and governors have welcomed the clarity the borough wide system has brought.

Governors are obliged to monitor attendance at school and make sure that all pupils are attending as often as possible. This is to ensure that children are making the most of the teaching on offer. Those who miss a day at school often find it hard to catch up when they find the class have moved on to a new subject when they get back. Those who miss several days at school may struggle with friendships. In some extreme cases, school absences may be a safeguarding issue. Governors expect all pupils to aim for 100 per cent attendance so that your child can reach their full educational potential. We do appreciate illness can affect that and we want to support you to ensure your child can attend school as often as possible by working with you on medication issues.

Governors are aware of all children that have attendance rates of 90 percent or below. Having an attendance rate of 90% is the same as half a day missing every week, or four weeks lost every year. Doing this for five years means the child misses half a year of education, which data shows us seriously impacts future grades and opportunities.

Parents and staff want the best for every child and the Catholic, caring teaching of our school delivers that every day. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in helping to make sure your child gets the best from their education at St Wilfrid's through consistent high levels of attendance.

John Rowbotham

Chair of Governors