

Our Ref: KH/WS/SchoolAttendance
25th September 2023



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

School Attendance

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you with regard to a recent letter that schools have received from the Department of Education (DfE) which details their view on mild illness and school attendance.

The DfE acknowledge that the Covid-19 Pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident in assessing whether their child is well enough to be in school and the DfE have laid out information for parents and carers.

They state there is agreement that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people and that being in school improves health, well being and socialisation throughout the life course.

The DfE states that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms, a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.

They recommend that children should not attend school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above and signpost parents to the following guidance. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

They also acknowledge, as we do as a school, that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people.

Any prolonged period of absence is more likely to heighten a child's anxiety rather than reduce it. We have always worked closely with parents, carers and pupils to encourage good attendance at Barr Beacon School as we know that good attendance means good progress academically and socially. We aim for 97% or above for attendance for every child.



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EDUCATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION

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Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we do not authorise any term time holidays and would ask you to familiarise yourself with the school holiday attendance & punctuality leaflet for parents and carers.

<https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/AttendanceBook-202021.pdf>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher



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