

Ref: KH/DA/Attendance-Concerns-and-Support

28th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Addressing School Attendance Concerns and Support for Families

We are writing to you regarding an important matter: school attendance. Over recent years, the government has taken significant steps to address pupil absence, reinforcing the expectation that all pupils should attend school regularly. As a school, we fully support this initiative and are committed to ensuring that every child receives the education they deserve.

As part of our statutory duties, we are required to escalate attendance concerns when pupils are missing significant time from school, either through unauthorised absences or without a valid reason. This includes submitting concerns to the local authority's Education Legal Intervention Team, which has the authority to take legal action where necessary.

It is clear that the local authority is now taking a firmer stance compared to last academic year. Recently, we have submitted seven cases of inconsistent school attendance to the local authority. The outcomes of these cases are as follows:

- 6 Families: Taken straight to court for legal prosecution
- 1 Family: Each parent issued a £1,014 fine due to escalation = £2,028 total for the family

These actions demonstrate that legal intervention is taken seriously when pupils have a high number of short absences, prolonged absences, or accumulate a high number of unauthorised absences, which includes being late to school. To support families in making informed decisions about their child's attendance, we encourage you to refer to the attached document: Is My Child Too Ill for School?

Link: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Support for Families

We understand that there may be underlying reasons affecting school attendance, and we remain committed to working with families to remove barriers to learning. A range of support services are available to help you and your child, including:

- Mental Health Support Worker
- Pastoral Team



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Old Hall Lane
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WS9 0RF
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Matrix
Academy Trust
EDUCATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION

0121 366 6600



Barr Beacon School



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- SEND Team
- School Social Worker
- THRIVE Centre
- Pupil Support Services
- Early Help

If you need assistance or wish to discuss your child's attendance further, please contact your child's Head of House. You can do this by emailing postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk.

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At Barr Beacon School, we are dedicated to working in partnership with families to support every pupil in reaching their full potential.

We appreciate your cooperation with this important matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. K Hibbs

Headteacher

EARLY HELP
at BARR BEACON SCHOOL

EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

What is Early Help?

Early Help is support offered to a child, young person, or their family as soon as a concern or difficulty begins to emerge. It can be provided at any point from pregnancy through to early adulthood and is available to all children and young people, whatever their level of need. Early Help is designed to support families with challenges they may struggle to manage on their own, ensuring they receive the right support, from the right people, at the right time.


Why is Early Help important?

- Provides support before problems escalate.
- Encourages professionals to work together in a coordinated way.
- Reduces the need for specialist or statutory intervention wherever possible.
- Support may range from advice and guidance to practical or more intensive help in complex situations.

What does Early Help look like?

- Positive, supportive conversations about your child's needs.
- Working collaboratively with services such as health, education, social care, or community organisations.
- Using the Signs of Safety and Wellbeing Framework to explore:
 - What is going well?
 - What are the worries?
 - What needs to happen next?

Where appropriate, an Early Help Assessment and Family Plan may be created so that everyone understands the agreed actions and support in place.



If you feel your family would benefit from support, please contact our Pastoral and Safeguarding team.

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