

Attendance and Punctuality

At Rushey Mead Academy we believe that all students are only able to achieve their potential if they attend school punctually and avoid missing lessons. We thus expect students to achieve 100% attendance and punctuality. Individual student records prove that this is achievable.

What constitutes good attendance?

Attendance percentages are not like examination results: an attendance percentage needs to be in the high nineties before it can be considered good. We grade attendance as follows: -

- 100% = excellent attendance
- 98% = very good attendance
- 96% = good attendance
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Each year, several students in every year group achieve 100% attendance records, showing that this is an achievable target. In addition, several children have achieved this level of attendance in successive years.

Attendance figures below 90% are of real concern. Consider the following examples: -

- 90% is the equivalent to missing **one day per fortnight** which equates to missing half a year's education during the course of Years 7-11
- 80% is the equivalent to missing **one day per week** which equates to missing one full year during the course of Years 7-11

Good attendance contributes to:

- personal and social development
- continuity of learning making retention and progress easier
- success in tests and examinations
- fulfilment of coursework requirements
- good references for further education or employment
- a reputation for reliability
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What does the school do to encourage good attendance?

- Individual rewards for students with excellent attendance records
Regular attendance information sent to parents/carers to assist them in monitoring their child's attendance.
- Regular promotion of good attendance in assemblies, the student bulletin, the Flyer and at parents'/carers' evenings
- Detailed analysis of attendance figures and trends for individuals, year groups, subgroups, and the whole school
- Automatic messages with parents/carers when students absent or late.
- Dedicated School Attendance Team
- Support for students and parents/carers where attendance difficulties are emerging.

Unauthorised Absence Fixed Penalty Notices

From 19th August 2024 (new academic year), penalty notice fines will increase in price.

- First Offence/qualifying holiday - £160 per parent, per child, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Second Offence/qualifying holiday - £160 per parent, per child, with no option to pay at a reduced rate.
- Third Offence /qualifying holiday – no penalty notice will be issue and the case will proceed to court.

To understand these changes better and for any further inquiries or discussions regarding your child's attendance, please refer to the school's attendance policy available on the school website and feel free to contact the school.