



### **Social and Emotional Intervention**

We offer a range of programmes for both individuals and small groups.

These include:

- Nurture Groups
- Time with a Learning Mentor

If school feels this support would be appropriate for a child, we will seek consent from parents/ carers to implement a programme of support.

### **Attendance Meetings**

School monitors attendance data regularly. If we spot any patterns of absence, or have any concerns about the level of absence, we will invite parents/ carers into school for a Parent Workshop or meeting. The aim of these meetings is to unpick any issues that there may be and work together to overcome any barriers.

The Parent Workshop takes place every half term and is a great place to meet with other parents to share ideas and support.

These meetings provide an opportunity for open communication between home and school.

### **Knowing When to Stay Home and When to Be In School**

Children pick up coughs and colds at school. It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold if they are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. The NHS Healthier Together app has been designed to allow you to access care for your child much more easily. It is like a 'mini doctor' and offers clear advice on when your child can and cannot attend school.

### **Good Hygiene Habits**

Good hygiene stops infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time.

Encourage your child to wash their hands properly for 20 seconds and use tissues for coughs and sneezes. School reinforces these messages and ensures regular hand washing, and tissues are available in all classrooms.

# GOOD ATTENDANCE PROMOTES GOOD OUTCOMES



***“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in.”***

***– Desmond Tutu.***

***‘Improving attendance is everyone’s business. The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families.’***

***~ Working Together to Improve School Attendance, DfE.***

It is vital that children are in good attendance habits from the day they start school. We need to work together to ensure this happens so that there are no issues ‘downstream’. Early intervention is key.



# WHY IS GOOD ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?



The government has set a target of 96% attendance for all pupils. This rate allows for periods of illness or particular circumstances when absence from school is unavoidable.

There are two different types of school absenteeism.

- Persistent absenteeism – When pupils record less than a 90% attendance at school.
- Severe absenteeism – When pupils are present for less than 50% of their school days.

Poor attendance has far-reaching consequences for children.

## Mental Health

Being absent from school is thought to be to the detriment of a child's mental health in the long term. By being distanced from their peers, children can develop feelings of social isolation and anxiety. This is evident by the number of under-18s being referred to mental health services since the COVID-19 lockdowns.



## Academic Achievement

Unsurprisingly, those who miss large chunks of their schooling go on to receive poorer exam grades. This in turn makes it much harder for children to progress on to higher education and employment.

Regular school attendance is crucial for acquiring knowledge, developing skills, and building relationships with peers as well as teachers. Pupils with high absence rates are at a significant disadvantage, as they miss out on valuable learning opportunities.

## Poor Attendance Habits

If children are in poor habits of attendance at primary school, this usually continues, and worsens, as they move into secondary school and can lead to school refusal.

## Common Causes of Poor Attendance

- Mental Health issues, including anxiety
- Social issues, including friendship issues
- Attachment issues meaning children are reluctant to leave their parents/carers
- Special Educational Needs can create barriers for pupils
- Low level coughs and colds which children can still attend school with
- Parental and family factors, including financial/ home pressures and lack of daily routine

# WHAT SUPPORT CAN SCHOOL OFFER?



## A Soft Start

We can offer a range of support for individual children. Please ask the office for a member of the Attendance Team to get in touch to discuss how best to support you and your child. A soft start decreases anxiety and stress and can get children off to a positive, calm start to the school day.