

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mrs H Baker



QEGS Academy Sponsors:

J.C. Bamford Excavators Ltd. - The Woodroffe Benton Foundation
- The Old Ashburnian Society - The Old Trust (founders 1585)

October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

The Importance of Regular Attendance at School

We would like to thank and congratulate those students, and their parents, whose attendance is regularly 100%, or close to it.

It is a parents' legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Ideally a young person should aim for 100% attendance at school. The Department for Education sets a target for school attendance, which is that all school students should attend school for at least 95% of each academic year. The QEGS expectation is at least 96%.

Any absence from school disrupts the education of a student. Young people who do not attend school regularly:-

- Do not achieve their best possible academic outcomes
- Do not engage with the full range of educational opportunities available to them
- Compromise their future educational and employment opportunities
- Find it difficult to maintain friendships

The attached "Lost Learning" information sheet clearly illustrates the impact of days missed from school. Although 96% attendance might sound high, in fact this equates to a student being absent for almost 2 school weeks (49 lessons missed). Students whose attendance falls below 96% are considered to be below the expected QEGS standard.

Absence from school can only be authorised by the Headteacher within the boundaries set by the Education (Pupil Registration, England, Amendment) regulations (Sept 2013).

With regard to requests for leave of absence during term time, Headteachers are only allowed to authorise leave of absence requests in "Exceptional circumstances". Family holidays in term time cannot be authorised.

All unauthorised absence taken in term time will be referred to Derbyshire County Council with the request that a Penalty Notice is issued. Please see the attached statement from Derbyshire County Council with regard to the issue of penalty notices.

Students whose attendance gives cause for concern will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer within the local multi-agency team.

Given the importance of students attending school regularly, all QEGS Rewards trips/events have the attendance criteria of 96% set which students must achieve in order to participate in any rewards events.

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Whilst we appreciate that students' attendance may be affected by periods of ill health or other mitigating circumstances, we ask that you continue to ensure that your child attends school in line with the targets set for school attendance.

If you would like at any time to discuss your child's attendance data, then please contact their Progress Leader.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Garrity', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher

Good Attendance Means

Being in school at least 96% of the time (between 180 & 190 days)

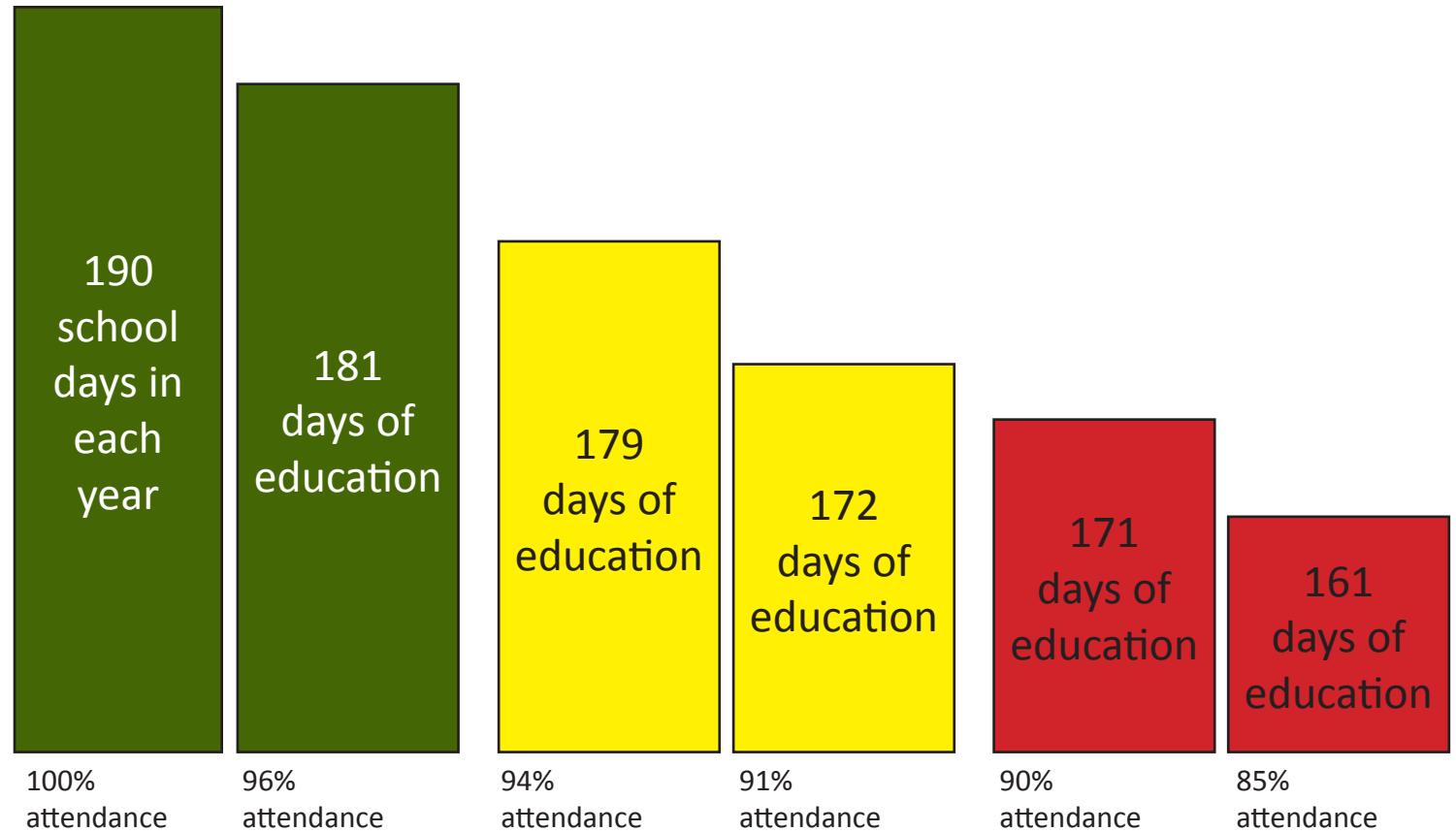


QEGS' attendance target is set at 96%.

Attendance is one of our criteria for students to take part in our rewards events.

190 school days per academic year

175 non-school days per academic year for family time, visits, holidays and shopping



Best chance of success

*Cause for concern
Less chance of success*

*Serious cause for concern
Persistent absence
Unlikely to fulfil academic potential*

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Unauthorised leave of absence during term time

On 6th April 2017 the Supreme Court appeal, in relation to the Platt v Isle of Wight case, determined that under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 attending school ‘regularly’ means:

“in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school”

PLEASE NOTE

Therefore, from 1st September 2017, if requested, Derbyshire County Council will consider the issue of a penalty notice for any period of holiday absence which has not been authorised by the Headteacher regardless of a child’s wider school attendance.