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[www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk](http://www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk)



**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

Thursday, 26 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Attendance and Uniform**

As we head towards half term, we would like to thank you for supporting us with your child's uniform and attendance.

Uniform has significantly improved since returning in September – thank you for your support in sending your child to school each day with correct uniform. It really does help keep the focus of conversation on learning rather than the challenge posed by incorrect uniform or appearance. However, there remain a minority of incidents of incorrect uniform; the remaining issues around short “stretchy” skirts, leggings and branded footwear. These are not part of our uniform, as made clear in the letter sent home at the end of last academic year. We are aware that some students do have the correct uniform at home but are choosing to wear incorrect uniform instead. Please can you ensure that your child leaves for school wearing correct uniform?

After half term, to help rectify these issues, we are purchasing correct uniform items in a variety of sizes that will be loaned to students who arrive at school in incorrect uniform. This will ensure that they are not challenged by staff across the day and so can focus on their learning.

Heads of year will continue to inform parents where their child has arrived in incorrect uniform. If you have been contacted by school due to your child wearing incorrect uniform, please can you support us by purchasing correct uniform items over the half term break.

We would also like to remind all parents of the important role they play in securing good attendance for their child. As you may be aware, the law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education and it is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education. Parents also have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances, such as being too ill to attend. This is essential for students to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment and wider life chances.

Our school attendance target for this year is 96%, so we expect all students to be at or above this figure. Some parents misunderstand attendance data - while 90% may be good as a mark in a test, in attendance terms it means one day a fortnight being missed. I have attached a poster to this letter that shows in real terms the number of days missed in relation to percentage attendance. If a child has less than 90% attendance, the Department for Education classes them as being persistently absent from school. Where support is not working or being engaged with, it may be necessary for the Local Authority to enforce attendance through legal intervention (including prosecution as a last resort). Please take this opportunity to view your child/s current attendance in Go4schools.

**TrustEd CSAT Alliance:**  
**CEO:** Mrs Sarah Godden  
**Deputy CEO:** Mr Pete Johnstone  
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We realise that there may be occasions when your child will be too ill to attend school. However, in most cases where a child has mild symptoms or is feeling a bit off colour, please do still send them to school. In such cases where feeling unwell can be improved with treatment, you could give them pain relief and plenty of fluids to drink before school. Students are also allowed to bring a **single dosage** of pain relief with them to school (as per our medical policy).

However, if your child has diarrhoea or is vomiting, they need to be kept off school until they are better. Of course, as in all cases of illness, **parental judgement** should be used to decide whether to keep the child off school and for how long.

If your child is not going to be in school, please call school on 01694 722209 (Option 1) or email our attendance officer at [jackie.rowley@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:jackie.rowley@cssschool.co.uk) to report their absence. Please do this before 8.40am on the first day of the absence and on **every** other day of absence that follows.

Where possible, dental and medical appointments should be made outside of school time. Any requests for a leave of absence must be submitted on a LATT form that can be found on our website [here](#). Parents should be aware that holidays during term time cannot be authorised.

If you would like to discuss any matters relating to your child's attendance or uniform, please contact their Head of year:

Head of year 7 – Mrs Dixon [louise.dixon@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:louise.dixon@cssschool.co.uk)

Head of years 8 & 10 – Ms Gajny [Yvonne.gajny@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:Yvonne.gajny@cssschool.co.uk)

Head of years 9 & 11 – Mr Elkins [Alistair.elkins@cssschool.co.uk](mailto:Alistair.elkins@cssschool.co.uk)

Thank for your continued support with uniform and in securing good attendance for your child.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Longhurst', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Longhurst

Assistant Headteacher

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS



How much school will you have missed in a year?

