

STRIVE - THRIVE - ACHIEVE

Important Information Regarding Student Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you regarding the upcoming changes to student attendance procedures, as outlined by the Department for Education (DfE). These changes come into effect from August 19th 2024, and will be introduced at Danesgate Community alongside a citywide and national roll out.

The changes aim to provide a clearer picture of student engagement and absences, to improve student wellbeing and educational outcomes through a more connected understanding of attendance patterns.

What to Expect in September:

Updated Attendance Codes: There will be modifications to the existing attendance codes used to record student absences. This may include the removal of some older codes and the introduction of new ones to better reflect the reasons for absence.

Focus on Support: Schools will prioritise a "support-first" approach, working collaboratively with families and local authorities to address any underlying issues that may be impacting student attendance.

Clearer Communication: We will continue to keep you updated on your child's attendance and any relevant changes to our procedures.

Changes to Fines for Absence:

Increased Penalty Amounts: The DfE has increased the penalty notices issued for unauthorized absences.

Fines will now be:

£80 if paid within 21 days of issue.

£160 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days.

Focus on Persistent Absence: The new framework focuses on persistent absenteeism, with fines only being issued as a last resort after a series of "improvement notices" and attempts to support families.

What You Can Do:

Review the DfE Guidance: You can find more detailed information about the DfE's attendance reforms on the GOV.UK website: Working Together to improve school attendance.

Stay Informed: We will be providing further updates and resources throughout the Autumn Term. Please don't hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions.

Maintain Open Communication: As always, we encourage you to communicate any upcoming absences or any concerns you may have regarding your child's attendance with the school as soon as possible.

We appreciate your continued cooperation in ensuring your child's regular attendance and academic success.

Kind Regards



Chris Nichols- Headteacher



Kim Mower- DSL and Pastoral Care Manager