

Year 11 Attendance Matters

As your child prepares for their GCSEs, we want to take this opportunity to stress the vital role that regular attendance plays in achieving academic success. These years are some of the most important in their education, laying the foundation for future pathways — whether that be sixth form, college, apprenticeships, or employment.

At our school, rooted in Catholic values, we are committed to the success and wellbeing of every student. A significant part of that commitment involves working together across school, home, and student, to ensure that learning is consistent and uninterrupted.

Why Attendance Counts

Based on findings from the Children's Commissioner for England's report *Missing Children, Missing Grades* (November 2023):

- Pupils with 95%+ attendance are twice as likely to achieve strong GCSE passes (grades 9–5).
- Missing 17 days of school can result in a full grade drop in every subject.
- Pupils who are rarely absent in Years 10 and 11: → 78% achieve 5 or more GCSEs, including English and Maths.
- Pupils who are persistently absent in both Years 10 and 11: → Only 36% reach that benchmark.
- Pupils who are severely absent in both Years 10 and 11: → Just 5% meet the standard.
- When attendance improves, outcomes improve: → 54% of pupils who were persistently absent in Year 10 but rarely absent in Year 11 passed at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths, compared to 36% who remained persistently absent.
- Dropping from 95% to 90% attendance can halve the chance of achieving Grade 5+ in English and Maths.
- Persistent absence is rising: nearly 1 in 5 pupils missed over 10% of sessions in 2023/24.

Absence & Medical Room Use

We understand that some absences are unavoidable. Medical appointments and documented health needs will always be treated with care and understanding.

However, we've seen a rise in students asking to go home from the medical room for minor or unclear reasons. We'll be working with families to support students and reduce unnecessary time away from learning.

Our goal is to support students to stay in school wherever possible—especially during vital learning time.

Holidays During Term Time

Family holidays during term time **will not be authorised** unless there are exceptional circumstances. These absences disrupt learning and directly impact GCSE results.

Working Together

We're proud of the families who prioritise attendance and value education. To support all students equally, we'll be challenging poor or avoidable attendance and working with parents to remove barriers.

Please help us by:

- Reinforcing the importance of daily attendance
- Supporting your child's full participation in school life
- Reaching out if you need help with attendance or wellbeing

Together, we can help your child succeed—academically, personally, and spiritually.

