



# Brine Leas School

An Academy

Believe, Learn, Succeed

October, 2016

Re: Attendance and Attainment

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As a school, we monitor attendance closely and research shows a clear relationship between attendance and attainment, which has a direct link to overall success for students.

As part of our strategy of monitoring attendance, we have noticed an increase in the number of days lost due to medical issues. We appreciate that everyone gets ill from time to time and we work closely with the families of those students who have long term medical issues, to ensure their needs are being met. However, there are a growing number of students who miss a considerable amount of school throughout the year which individually may only be a short absence of a day or two, but throughout the year, builds to a considerable amount of absence.

With this in mind, any student who accumulates more than 14 sessions of absence for these reasons throughout the course of a term will be asked to provide medical evidence to support further absence. This evidence could be for example an appointment card or a copy of a prescription. Absences will be marked as unauthorised until this evidence is provided.

We have also noticed an increase in the number of students asking to go home sick during the school day. The procedure within school is that the student must speak to their Progress Manager to be given permission to go home. The reason we have put this in place is to allow the Progress Manager to monitor patterns of absences and allow them to discuss what is wrong with your child in an attempt to keep them in school. Please note, if your child is unable to continue in school because they are genuinely unwell, we will contact you and request them to be collected.

This measure is not reflective of a distrust of your child's absence, but it is necessary to ensure that, as a school, we closely monitor absences. Clearly, we want to support any student who is ill and we can do this more effectively by working in partnership with you.

Regarding holidays during term time, the school will not authorise any holidays unless there are quite exceptional circumstances. We therefore request that students are not taken out of school during term time on family holidays.

Headteacher:  
Mr Andrew Cliffe

Audlem Road, Nantwich  
Cheshire CW5 7DY

Tel. 01270 625663

Fax. 01270 610373

Email. [info@brineleas.co.uk](mailto:info@brineleas.co.uk)

[www.brineleas.co.uk](http://www.brineleas.co.uk)



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Finally, there is a legal obligation to ensure your child is in school as much as possible and we are fortunate that so many of our parents are so conscientious about this matter, but we would ask for your support in not condoning absences which are not genuine. We would also ask that, if there are any issues with your child, which could be affecting their attendance, you contact myself, your son/daughter's Progress Manager or Dena Goodrich (Attendance Officer) as soon as possible to discuss this, so that we are able to support your child appropriately.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

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Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Oakes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Mr R Oakes  
Assistant Headteacher  
ROS/SAF/ACE