

“MOWDEN MATTERS”



Mowden's Pastoral Newsletter

March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

For my very first Mowden Matters, I wanted to concentrate on attendance, and the importance of the children having high attendance rates.

As part of my new position as Assistant Head (Pastoral), I have also been appointed as the school's 'Attendance Champion.' This is a new role that is required of all schools by the Department for Education.

The Attendance Champions should 'set a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance', 'regularly monitor and evaluate progress' and 'liaise with the Local Authority' where there are concerns around individual children's attendance.

I very much believe that this is something that involves working alongside families to help overcome any barriers to attendance. The remainder of this leaflet deals with the importance of high attendance rates and how we will be working at Mowden to achieve these, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr G Townley

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	1 week 3 days	81 lessons
90%	18 Days	3 weeks	162 lessons
85%	27 Days	4 weeks 3 days	243 lessons
80%	36 Days	6 weeks	324 lessons
75%	45 Days	7 weeks 3 days	405 lessons
70%	54 Days	9 weeks	486 lessons
65%	63 Days	10 weeks 3 days	567 lessons



This table, which Mr Sturt has shared with you previously, demonstrates the huge impact low attendance can have on a child. As a school, we are required to demonstrate how we work with families where attendance is low. Even a 5% absence clearly has major implications for both academic and emotional success.

Attendance and Academic Success

Statistics show that good attendance and academic success go hand in hand.

At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard.

At GCSE, the overall absence rate of pupils **not** achieving grade 9 to 4 was **over twice as high** as those achieving grade 9 to 5 (8.8% compared to 3.7%)



Attendance and Wellbeing

It is not just academic success that is affected by low attendance. A recent report showed that missing school not only affects academic performance but also social development and emotional wellbeing. Long term effects include a greater likelihood of mental health issues persisting well into adulthood.



Achieving high attendance rates at Mowden.

Over the coming weeks, we will be introducing new incentives to increase the attendance rates at Mowden Hall. These will include:

- Individual awards and certificates for children achieving 100%
- Form and year group awards for highest attendance

We will be involving staff and pupils in planning these, and I will report back in the coming weeks.

