



October 2022

## Re: School attendance expectations and procedures

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good school attendance is key to helping children have the best possible start in life to support and maximise their potential learning opportunities. There is clear evidence which links educational achievement to good school attendance.

At Prestatyn High School, we know that:

- If our pupils missed more than 30% of school, they failed to achieve 5 A\*-C GCSE grades.
- If our pupils missed between 10-20% of school, only 21% managed to achieve 5 A\*-C GCSE grades.
- If our pupils missed less than 5% of school, more than 80% achieved 5 A\*-C GCSE grades.

Prestatyn High School is determined to provide the best education to the children they serve. In recognition that school attendance and attainment are strongly linked, a robust attendance procedure has been developed to support pupils learning. The procedure includes absence prompts and opportunities to meet with staff to support parents/guardians/ carers in achieving the highest possible attendance for their child. However, it also has triggers to progress the matter to court for a parental prosecution where there is a failure of parents/guardians to take up the support offered and where the child's education suffers.

If your child has 20 sessions (10 school days) of unauthorised absence within one term for any reason (including holidays, lateness after close of register and any other unauthorised absence), as part of the attendance procedures the school can request that the Local Authority issue you with a Fixed Penalty Notice. Fixed Penalty Notices and other sanctions will only be used where parental co-operation with this process is either absent or deemed to be insufficient to resolve the problem. The action will be used as a means to support parents to meet their legal responsibilities. You need to be aware that although you may provide a reason for absence, it is the school which decides if the absence is recorded as authorised or unauthorised.

A copy of the attendance procedure flowchart is available on the school website or should you wish to request a copy, please contact the school's attendance team. Further information regarding Fixed Penalty Notices is available on the Denbighshire website.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the structure is in place and will be followed. It is also to encourage you to take up the offers of support from the school to avoid reaching the point that prosecution is used as a measure to ensure your child attends school. Our policy is in place to improve attendance because as we know, this allows our young people to achieve.

Thank you for your continued support and ensuring that your child is in school to achieve and gain the best possible opportunities available to them.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Foley

Claire Turner

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher

