

Inclusive Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, our mission is rooted in the belief that "Every Person is Precious to God". We are committed to nurturing the dignity and potential of every child, helping each one to flourish through excellent teaching, positive relationships and strong partnerships with families. Regular attendance is an essential part of this commitment, and we are pleased to share an important development in the way we support attendance across our school.

We are working with Inclusive Attendance to develop an approach that is compassionate, supportive and centred on the needs of each child and family. In keeping with our Catholic ethos, we recognise that every family's circumstances are unique. Our aim is to work alongside parents and carers to identify and overcome any barriers that may prevent a child from attending school regularly and engaging fully in their learning.

Our approach is based on shared responsibility. Staff, pupils, parents and carers all have an important part to play in promoting good attendance. By working together with honesty, respect and care, we can ensure that every child benefits from the learning, friendships, faith experiences and wider opportunities that school provides.

To provide the right support at the right time, we are introducing a Multi-Tiered System of Support. Our universal offer will promote good attendance for every child. Where a child or family needs additional help, Tier 2 will provide early support within school, while Tier 3 will offer access to more specialised support and resources when required. At every stage, our response will be inclusive, proportionate and focused on helping the child to flourish.

Clear and respectful communication with families is central to our mission. We will therefore move from reporting attendance mainly as a percentage to explaining the number of school days missed. We hope this will make attendance information easier to understand and help families see more clearly the effect that absence can have on a child's learning, relationships and wellbeing.

We will also move away from a rewards-based system and adopt a recognition-based approach. This will allow us to acknowledge effort, improvement and individual circumstances in a way that is fair, inclusive and consistent with our belief that every person is precious to God.

Through this renewed approach, we hope to build a culture in which attendance is understood as a shared commitment to every child's God-given potential. In partnership with families and the wider community, we will continue to ensure that pupils feel known, valued and supported so that they can flourish and contribute to a just and hopeful future.

Please visit the attendance page on our school website and read our Attendance Policy for further information about this approach and the support available. If you have any questions, or if your family is experiencing difficulties that may affect attendance, please contact us. We will listen without judgement and work with you to find the most appropriate support.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping every child at St Columba's to thrive.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Judith Kelby
Headteacher