

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to take the opportunity to make you aware of some changes that we are putting in place around how we encourage good attendance.

We have the highest aspirations for all our young people across NEAT Academy Trust. We have worked hard to develop our curriculum and all NEAT pupils will have access to our exciting NEAT Experience next year. We will share more information about this at the beginning of the autumn term.

We also know that children make good progress and can reach their full potential if they attend school regularly. From September, we will introduce a new attendance policy for all of our schools, in line with the Department for Education's 'Working together to improve attendance' strategy.

The main focus is to be more proactive in our approach to encouraging good attendance. We will update our young people, parents and carers regularly about attendance. The majority of our learners already attend school regularly and for those pupils, we want to congratulate them and celebrate good attendance.

We will also take a more rigorous approach to monitoring and supporting attendance:

- if a pupil's attendance drops below 97%, they will have an attendance monitoring plan, which will be overseen by school staff;
- if the pupil still continues to be absent from school, they will be closely monitored by attendance staff within school;
- if attendance does not improve at this stage, the pupil will be referred to an education welfare officer and we will inform the local authority of our concerns, which may result in parents being prosecuted and fined.

We will also not grant any requests for holidays during term-time. If parents or carers take holidays in term time, this may result in a fine.

We will continue to provide support to our families to enable all pupils to attend regularly. Staff will carry out home visits as part of our ongoing focus to improve attendance. We know that there may be circumstances where your child cannot attend school: please contact your school as soon as possible if that is the case and we will work with you to offer support.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school in the first instance if you have any questions about our approach to attendance.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to ensure all of our young people reach their full potential.

Thank you,



**Debi Bailey**  
CEO, NEAT Academy Trust