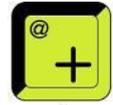




# Putteridge High School

Putteridge Road Luton LU2 8HJ

Headteacher: Mr David Graham



Maths &  
Computing  
Specialist School

REF : JM/SH  
18th October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

## NEW PERSISTENT ABSENCE THRESHOLD

I would like to inform you of the changes to the persistent absence threshold.

From 1st September 2015, the Government has reduced the threshold from 15% to 10%. This will now class a student with attendance below 90% as a persistent absentee, compared with the previous figure of 85%, regardless of whether the school has authorised or unauthorised the absence. This equates to 38 sessions or 19 days of absence across the year.

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to fulfil their potential. The attendance pattern for all children is monitored regularly with the school seeking to work actively with parents to ensure that regular attendance is maintained. The Department for Education has published data on their website that clearly shows the link between attendance and attainment. This highlights the fact that there will be an impact on your child's education and exam results if they are persistently absent from school.

Minor ailments, such as a headache or slight cold, are not acceptable reasons for failing to attend school. Repeated absences may require the school to request that you obtain medical evidence from your doctor's surgery or local pharmacy as recommended by the Government.

I would also like to remind you that the current law does not give any entitlement to parents to remove their child from school during term-time for the purpose of a holiday. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence where an application has been made in advance and it is considered that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Please do let us know if you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance and we will work together to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Jason Mallikarachi  
Education Welfare Officer

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