

## School Refusal

If your child refuses to go to school you may feel desperate, upset and/or angry and have no idea what to do next or where to turn to for help.

As a Parent/Carer you have a legal responsibility to make sure your child attends school. It is not always easy to do this and we understand and acknowledge that.

It is important to find out the reason(s) for their reluctance to attend school. Are they struggling with the work? Are they experiencing medical issues that are affecting their confidence in school? Are they being bullied? Are there family issues that are affecting them? Are there friendship issues?

Once the source of the problem is found, we are able to offer you and your child support to help and encourage your child to come in to school and stay all day. We are able to visit you in your home with your child if you would prefer.

If you need to discuss any problems you are having in this regard, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

If we are not aware of the problems you or your child may be experiencing, we are unable to help so please let us know as soon as you can to enable us to support you and your child as early as possible.

There is no stigma attached to school refusal or truancy. It can happen within all families and for all sorts of reasons.

Our very dedicated Learning Development Department can offer anger management social skills group work and general support and guidance.

We work very closely with the Education Welfare Service and will ask for their assistance if we find that we are unable to resolve continuing absences from school. We will also make use of Fixed Penalty Notices for non-school attendance. Each case is looked at individually and we will always try to resolve any issues before a referral to either service is made.

## Persistently Absent Students

From September 2015, the Government changed their guidelines regarding students who have poor school attendance.

Students who fall under 90% (19 days of absence) are regarded as 'persistent poor attenders'. It is very likely that a Fixed Penalty Notice will have been issued for non-attendance or students will have been referred to the Education Welfare Service.

10 days of absence = 95%

**19 days of absence = 90%**

29 days of absence = 85%

38 days of absence = 80%

47 days of absence = 75%

## Did you know?

School attendance is important:

- To keep up with school work and make friends.
- To get the best possible start in life and make the best of opportunities available.
- Because employers and colleges look at attendance before offering jobs/places.
- Because school attendance is required **by Law**.
- Because Learning makes a difference to your child's future.
- It is expected that students have a minimum of 95% attendance.
- Missing just one half day a week = **one whole week** of Secondary education.

## Useful Contacts

### Attendance

Absence Line: 01444 241691  
absence@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk

### Parenting and Family Support – Family Lives

A free 24 hour confidential helpline  
for parents

www.familylives.org.uk  
Telephone: 0808 800 2222



# Is your child having difficulties with School Attendance?

A guide for Parents/Carers