

February 2025

Dear Parent/Carers

We are delighted to announce that The Arthur Terry School has been recognized and awarded by FFT for achieving a position in the top 10% of secondary schools in England for Attendance. We are incredibly proud of our students for arriving to school every day, on time, and ready to learn. We know that regular attendance is closely linked to higher academic attainment, as consistent presence in school allows students to fully engage with the curriculum and benefit from continuous learning opportunities. Regular attendance positively impacts personal development by fostering discipline, responsibility, and social skills, which are essential for students' overall growth and future success.

Punctuality

A reminder that all students must be on site before 8:45 AM, allowing them time to be in their Tutor rooms by 8:50 AM. If your child arrives after 8:50 AM, they will need to go to reception and sign in with the Attendance team. Students who are late to Tutor time, or do not arrive at school by 8:50 AM will be issued a Phase 3 sanction in line with the Behaviour policy.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child leaves for school in a timely manner. We encourage all students to be sensible and considerate when traveling to school. Walking to school not only promotes a healthy lifestyle but also helps reduce traffic congestion around the school premises. We ask that parents be mindful of the community and support their children in walking to school and using the gully on Clarence Road to access school whenever possible. Please allow extra time to leave for school during poor weather conditions, and when there is roadworks in the area.

Support

If your child is struggling to attend school every day or arrive on time, we encourage you to seek support from the Attendance and Year Group Teams. Our staff are here to help and can provide guidance and assistance to ensure your child's punctuality and regular attendance. You can communicate with the school via email at enquiry@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk.

To support your child, we recommend establishing a consistent bedtime routine and ensuring they pack their belongings the night before. Additionally, a healthy breakfast is essential to start their day right and keep them energised for learning. Your cooperation and proactive approach in these matters are greatly appreciated.

Important – Significant changes to issuing penalty notices for leave in term time.

We would like to inform you about significant changes to the penalty fines for unauthorised absences during term time. These changes, effective from August 19, 2024, aim to improve school attendance, which is crucial for student progress and personal development.

Our school targets a minimum of 96% attendance for all students. Falling to 90% attendance means missing around 100 lessons, leading to significant learning gaps. For more details on our attendance processes, please visit our school website.

Key Changes:

- **Two-Penalty Notice Limit:** Parents can receive only two penalty notices within a three-year period starting from the first notice issued after August 19, 2024.
- **Penalty Fines:** The first penalty notice is £160 per parent per child, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. A second notice within three years is fixed at £160 with no reduction for early payment. Further unauthorised leave will lead to prosecution, with fines up to £1000.
- **National Threshold:** Penalty notices will be issued for 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks. Local authorities can issue notices before this threshold if necessary.

The school must report absences of 15 consecutive or cumulative days due to illness to Birmingham City Council.

Please notify the school of your child's illness via the Studybugs app before 8:30 AM each day. Absences are not automatically authorised; the school will determine this based on circumstances and may require medical evidence for absences of 5 days or more. Unannounced home visits may occur if necessary.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly.

Yours faithfully,

The Leadership Team