PUPIL ABSENCE STATEMENT 2023-24

It has always been recognised in a range of research that pupils who have good attendance do better at school than those who miss lots of school. Attendance is one of the basic skills children need

- ✓ to learn,
- ✓ to enjoy positive relationships with their peers

This statement is to set out the expectations of attendance for Discovery Multi Academy Trust schools, in adherence with Plymouth City Council advice.

In your child's report, we always tell you of your child's attendance. Attendance of 96% and above is good.

All attendance of 96% and below is reviewed monthly by the Senior Head of School/Head of School. Unusual patterns, or attendance below 96%, are followed up by letters, a phone call and potentially a meeting with the Senior Head of School/Head of School. For families with concerning attendance or where improvements are not being seen a referral will be made to the Trust Inclusion and Safeguarding Lead who may refer to the Early Help/Connect 2 team within the Local Authority. Once a referral is made to the Local Authority they will monitor and review attendance with families, which may include warnings of penalty notices, a legal warning letter, and may be followed up with fines if the attendance does not improve.

What does low or poor attendance look like?

In every school year there are 190 school days and 175 non-school days.

96% attendance means your child has missed seven and a half days of school in a year.
95% attendance means your child has missed nine and a half days of school in a year.
90% attendance is a morning or afternoon missed every week.
85% attendance means your child has missed twenty-eight days (a month) of a school year.
92% attendance over your child's whole school career (5 to 16) is equivalent to missing a whole year of school.

For Discovery Multi Academy Trust schools, the expected level of school attendance is
96% or above.

The Trust recognises that due to unusual medical or other circumstances, a child's attendance may drop below this.