



Park Grove Primary School
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Headteacher
Miss J Sawyer

Charity Registration no. 1127874

Empowering Children through Creative Learning

Assistant Headteachers
Mrs V Hearson
Mrs N Martin
Mrs H Steel

Changes in the legislation around persistent absences

The Department for Education (DfE) laid out the new challenge for school attendance by further raising the level at which a child is deemed persistently absent.

From September 2015 persistent absence (PA) data will include all pupils whose attendance is **90% or less**.

PA will be assessed on a cumulative basis so a pupil can come in and out of the category but in real terms, a child or young person who misses 19 or more days over a full academic year will be classed as persistently absent. Pupils taking unauthorised leave of absence early in the year could be categorised as persistently absent well into half term five but have perfect attendance from their return date onwards.

Persistent absence from school has a detrimental effect on a child's educational progress and attainment. Over a five year period a child whose attendance is at 90%, will miss a quarter of a school year and an absence of 10 days over the course of one whole school year will result in attendance of below 95%; that's a lot of lost education.

Our schools minimum target for pupil attendance is 96%.

Support and guidance on attendance and punctuality is always available from our school via our website <http://parkgroveprimary.co.uk/information/general-information/attendance> or the City of York Council website https://www.york.gov.uk/info/20163/attendance_and_truancy/173/attendance_and_truancy

If you wish to speak to a member of staff about your child's attendance please contact Natalie Slater (Child and Family Support Worker) on 01904 554390 or natalie.slater@york.gov.uk

Thank you for your continued support.