



13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Attendance Update

Many of you may have seen in the news recently the issue of nearly 2 million children not in a school. For those who do attend a school, 1.7 million are persistently absent (CSJ 2021). Consequently, the Government have made this a key priority for schools, Academy Trusts and Local authorities to improve.

The strong concern is that for children who are late or do not attend school, this will cause gaps in their learning, and delayed social interaction skills will only get worse as can be seen below.

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year
Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.
Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.
An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.
Being Late for school
If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss 3 days of learning each year.
If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

We appreciate that Covid and the recent outbreak of Strep A and flu are presenting challenges for many families. To be clear– we are not asking you to send your child in if they are genuinely unwell. However, we recognise that there are other barriers that we can help with such as transport, school refusal or parental illness.

At Liden, we want all children to have the very best chance at school, to make the most of this time to learn, find their talents and skills, and above all to enjoy this time with their teacher and friends. Not being at school means that gaps appear in their education and children miss out.

All schools and parents are required to ensure that each child's attendance is at least 95%. Having looked at our current school figures, we are below this average and have a very high percentage of children who are persistently absent (attendance of 90%) and late.

Moving forward, there are several steps that we are taking to improve our school attendance and lateness. We have a new attendance officer, Mrs Dunn, who will inform parents when attendance drops below 95% and work with parents to improve this, alongside our pastoral team. This will start this term. Parents may be very surprised at how quickly absence can build up within a year.

With regard to lateness, the school gates and classroom doors will open at 8.35am. Both will now close at a new time of **8.50am**. We ask parents and carers to go to the school office should you arrive outside this time.

We are also rolling out rewards to children. All children are in a house team. As children collect gems for their class, we will reward the house that has the most improved weekly attendance. In the last week of term, the house team that has the most gems will have a reward such as non-uniform day.

The school web page is also being revamped to provide more useful information for parents.

Lastly, to ensure that our revised attendance policy and parent summary is fully accessible, I have attached both to this letter, as well as being available on the school website. I wish to thank you for your continual support.

Yours sincerely 