



Saint Paul's Catholic High School



Dear parents/carers,

Important notice for national changes to Attendance from 19th August 2024

We firmly believe that regular school attendance is essential for the educational progress and overall wellbeing of our pupils. We share the Department for Education's (DfE) ambitions to improve school attendance. In this letter we want to inform you on the important nationwide changes that come into force in August and will therefore take effect from the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

Why regular attendance matters

Consistent school attendance allows your child to:

- Fully engage in learning and make academic progress
- Develop critical social skills by interacting with their friends and teachers
- Grow in confidence in a supportive and nurturing school environment
- Build a sense of routine and responsibility, essential for future success

Support First

Saint Paul's Catholic High School understand that some pupils may face challenges that impact their attendance. Our school's attendance team is here to provide support and guidance to pupils and families in such situations. If you encounter any difficulties related to attendance, please do reach out to the attendance team using one of the two options below:

Phone - 0161 499 0000 - Ext 2.

Email – attendanceteam@st-paulshigh.net

If we are concerned about attendance we will be in regular communication via phone, email or home visits. We appreciate the challenges parents can face and feel that working together with families is the best option for positive outcomes for our students.

New nationwide rules starting on 19th August 2024 are outlined below.

We have a duty to communicate these clearly with all parents. Please get in touch with us if you have any queries. One of the main changes from the Department for Education is how **sanctions for unauthorised absence** are used.

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Saint Paul's Catholic High School
Firbank Road, Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 2YS.
Telephone: 0161 499 0000 Email: admin@st-paulshigh.net Website: www.st-paulshigh.net Twitter: @StPaulsRCHigh

Mr M. Whiteside, Headteacher.

We are His body, living and learning as one.





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Manchester City Council will issue a fine (known as a fixed-penalty notice) if you take an unauthorised holiday in term time or have other periods of unauthorised absence. If issued with one, you'll need to pay this directly to the local authority – **£80 per parent per child within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days**. We urge all parents to please arrange holidays to take place in school holidays. There are 177 non-term days available for personal commitments.

The decision whether to issue a fine will consider whether a national threshold has been met – this is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks – as well as other factors.

If there was a second period of unauthorised absence within a three-year period then a second penalty notice could be issued, and this would be at the higher rate of £160.

Further periods of absence within three years, could mean that you are taken to court with no option of a penalty notice.

Term-time holidays are not permitted during the school year. Absences due to term-time holidays are disruptive to learning and lead to missed opportunities in the classroom.

Please get in touch with the attendance team by phoning 0161 499 0000 with any further questions, and we'll be happy to discuss them with you.

Thank you for your co-operation and commitment in ensuring your child is in school every day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Seddon

Mr Seddon
Assistant Headteacher

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