



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

DRT/JE

27 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our very successful Ofsted inspection, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

While Ofsted identified huge positives during our recent inspection, attendance is an area for improvement, particularly persistent absence. Our final report is now officially published on the Ofsted website.

Our focus on attendance is not just about Ofsted. It is about making sure every child can achieve their best, feel part of our school community, and benefit fully from school life. Good attendance is strongly linked to learning, achievement, wellbeing, and future success.

We understand that there are times when children may struggle to attend school, and we remain committed to working in partnership with families to remove barriers wherever possible. However, we will also be strengthening our approach where absence is having a negative impact on a child's learning, progress or wellbeing.

Children only get **one secondary school education**. Unfortunately, there is no reset button and no second chance to repeat those 5 years. What happens now really matters. **Attendance matters.**

Pupils attend school for around **190 days a year**, out of **365 days**. That means they are only in school for just over **half of the year**. Every single day in school is precious and makes a huge difference to future life chances.

Missing just **one day** of school means missing around **5 hours of learning**.

Missing **10 days** means losing **two full weeks** of education. This is significant and will have a big impact.

Over a year, this adds up quickly and creates gaps that are difficult to catch up on.

Good attendance also helps pupils:

- Build strong routines
- Feel confident and included
- Keep up with friendships
- Develop good habits for future work and training

When attendance drops, pupils can fall behind academically, lose confidence, and feel disconnected from school.

Every day in school really matters. By making school attendance a priority, we are giving young people the best possible chance to succeed.

We kindly ask parents and carers to avoid making medical or other appointments during the school day wherever possible. If an appointment is unavoidable, we expect pupils to attend school before and after the appointment, unless there is a medical emergency.

Your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day, arrives on time, and only misses school when necessary is vital. By working together, we can help every student feel supported, successful, and ready to thrive.

Please be aware that government guidance stipulates that arrival to school after the close of registration must be marked as **an unauthorised absence**.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or need support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to improving standards.

Yours sincerely,



David Thompson
Head Teacher