



17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Scalby School, we are deeply committed to driving up educational achievement for the young people of Scarborough and this coastal region. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, and regular school attendance is a vital part of that journey. Improving attendance is not just a procedural goal—it is a key component in ensuring that our students reach their full potential. Research consistently shows that students, who attend school regularly, perform better academically, develop stronger social skills, and are more likely to achieve positive outcomes in later life.

That's why we set a clear expectation: students should maintain a minimum of 95% attendance. The school encourages good attendance through termly incentives and rewards events, and weekly tutor attendance prizes.

As parents, you have a legal obligation to ensure that your child attends school regularly. Section 7 Education Act 1996 outlines the duty of parents to secure education for children of a compulsory school age. If a pupil fails to attend school regularly, the parent could be found guilty of an offence under Section 444 1/1A Education Act 1996. At Scalby School, we monitor attendance daily to help support your child's attendance. If your child's attendance dips below 90%, they are classed as persistently absent. This will then trigger formal attendance monitoring and in some cases, legal intervention and prosecution. **Students with 90% attendance, at the end of an academic year, have missed 19 days of school which equates to 95 lessons/hours of learning.**

We want to support you with ensuring that your child attends school regularly. Sometimes, your child may be ill or have a medical condition that requires them to be absent from the academy. We ask parents to provide medical confirmation, in order to enable these absences to be authorised. Examples of medical confirmation include GP, hospital and dental appointment letters/screenshots of appointment details or prescribed medications. Without medical confirmation, we have to log the absence as unauthorised. We have a duty to inform the Local Authority of regular unauthorised absences.

Our attendance policy, which outlines the rules and procedures, can be found on our website. To help make the rules more user-friendly, we have produced the attached 'Top 10 Frequently Asked Attendance Questions' infographic, which outlines the rules surrounding term time holidays, unauthorised absences and persistent lateness.

Persistent absence has a detrimental effect on your child's learning. Educational outcomes are poorer for a child with poor attendance. We will do everything we can to support your child in our academy. We respectfully ask that you work with us to help your child be successful in our academy by ensuring they attend school regularly.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Robertson  
Headteacher

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