



# PASTORAL NEWSLETTER (Term 2)

Jan 2025

## SAFEGUARDING

We all have a part to play in keeping children safe, especially weekends and over the holidays where children may not be seen by professionals for a number of weeks. Should you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child during the weekend or any of the holidays, please contact Stockport MASSH directly on 0161 217 6028, stating the child's name, approximate age, and the school they attend. You don't have to give your details if you don't want, this can be done anonymously. **Remember keeping children safe is what is important**

## UNIFORM

In recent weeks we have received new local (Stockport Council) and national policy instruction (from the Government) with regards to permitted jewellery for children attending schools across the nation.

For children that have recently had their ears pierced, please ensure this is with small stud earrings.

As a result of this policy change the board have adapted the policy available to view on the school website, and from Monday 10th January 2025 the children must **NOT** wear any hooped earrings, rings or necklaces. The only Jewellery allowed will be a simple wrist watch and small flat stud earrings (worn at their own risk) on days when they do not have sporting activities. The children will need to remove these for all sporting/physical activity. If a child wearing earrings from Monday next week cannot remove them by themselves for activities, then parents will be expected to come in to remove them that day, before they can take part in any activities or attend after school sports.

## ATTENDANCE REWARDS

An attendance reward vending machine is available to those students who complete 6 consecutive weeks with 100% attendance and NO lateness to school. Your child will be given a token which they can then spend in the vending machine to gain a reward or save to get more tokens for a bigger prize reward.



## TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

When children miss school for term time holidays not only do they miss out on important learning but they often take time to settle back into their learning routines.

The government is strengthening the rules around Education Penalty Notices. These are fixed penalty fines which can be issued by the Local Authority where 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence take place.

They are most commonly issued to parents when a child misses school for a term time holiday taken without the permission of the school.

The new stronger rules will apply to all offences taking place after August 2024.

□ for the first fine issued after the start of the 24-25 school year, the fine will increase to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

□ if a second fine is then issued to the same parent for the same child within three years of the first fine it will be for £160.

□ Subsequent offences - no further fines can then be issued if two have already been issued to the same parent for the same child within the previous three years (starting with the date of the first fine); instead the parent will be prosecuted by the Local Authority in the Magistrates' Court.

**It is therefore more important than ever that parents arrange to take family holidays in the school holidays and not in term time.**

### **ATTENDANCE – What is it and why is it important?**

Under the Education Act 1996, parents/Carers are responsible for making sure that their children, of compulsory school age, receive a suitable full-time education. This includes ensuring regular attendance and punctuality. Non-attendance will not go unchallenged and parents/carers are accountable for any session that their children miss from school for any reason. Parent/carers who fail to ensure regular attendance and punctuality at their child's registered school may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the Local Authority.

Good attendance is at least 96%, this equates to less than 8 days off in a school year. Less than 95% attendance could result in letters being issued, Pre Tac meetings in school or fines/prosecution from the Local Authority

<b>95% attendance</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>9 days off school</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>50 lessons missed</b>
<b>90% attendance</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>19 days off school</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100 lessons missed</b>
<b>85% attendance</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>29 days off school</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>150 lessons missed</b>
<b>80% attendance</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>38 days off school</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>200 lessons missed</b>

**ATTENDANCE REALLY DOES MATTER**