

Friday 11th July 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

School Attendance

In July last year, Miss Rochester, CEO of our Multi-Academy Trust, wrote to inform families about important changes to the law around term-time absence, introduced by the Department for Education (DfE). These changes came into effect last August and apply to all schools nationally.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in promoting good school attendance. Regular attendance plays a vital role in both your child's learning and social development.

Key Changes to Leave of Absence:

Schools are now only permitted to authorise time off for specific reasons outlined in the updated attendance regulations. These include:

- Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances (Please note: the DfE does *not* consider holidays, leisure, or recreational activities as exceptional circumstances)

In some cases, schools can also authorise absence for educational activities taking place outside of school.

All leave of absence requests must be made in advance by a parent or carer with whom the child normally lives.

National Rules for Fines:

There is now a single national framework for issuing fines for unauthorised absences, including holidays taken during term time without permission. The fines are:

- £80 if paid within 21 days
- £160 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days

Senior Attendance Champion at Ryecroft:

Each school will have a senior staff member responsible for supporting and improving attendance. At Ryecroft, I fulfil this role. If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you once again for your ongoing cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Hall
Deputy Headteacher/DSL
Senior Attendance Champion