

GDST Statement on School Attendance

Absence, whatever its cause, is detrimental to any student's academic, social and emotional development. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school, with a cumulative effect. Regular or persistent absence can also indicate a pupil welfare issue.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly. Parents can only allow their child to miss school if they are too ill to go in or they have advance permission from the school. The Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 make it clear that Heads may only grant leave of absence *in exceptional circumstances*.

In order to maximize our students' potential, the GDST is committed to ensuring students do not miss out on their education through poor attendance rates. The national school attendance average is currently 96% and we expect all our schools to at least meet this average. School attendance rates are monitored by GDST.

Class teachers and tutors are expected to review the attendance record of the students for whom they are responsible on a regular basis. An individual attendance record of below 90% must be followed up by the school, as will noticeable patterns, sudden or unexplained absence. As is required by law, the school will inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more. The local safeguarding partners will also be informed if absence amounts to a safeguarding concern.