

# THE DIAMOND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Established in the Queens Jubilee Year 2012

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Tel: 01480 375270 Fax: 01480 375274 CEO: Mr Jonathan Lewis

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you enjoyed a restful and fulfilling summer break. As the newly appointed CEO of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust, I would like to warmly welcome you back to a new academic year and extend a particular welcome to all our new families joining the trust for the first time.

As we begin this new academic year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in ensuring your child receives the best possible education. Our schools are committed to providing high-quality teaching, a nurturing environment, and the widest opportunities for every child to thrive. But at the very heart of your child's success is one essential ingredient: excellent attendance and punctuality.

## Ensuring High Attendance

The link between school attendance and academic achievement is clear. National data shows that pupils with the highest attendance achieve the best outcomes. Missing even small amounts of time from school can have a significant impact on your child's learning. For example:

Attendance (%)	Days Missed per Year	Estimated Impact
100%	0 days	Ideal – best chance of success
95%	9 days	Can cause some learning gaps
90%	19 days	Equivalent to a month of school missed
85%	29 days	Serious risk to achievement

A pupil who falls to 90% attendance is classified as “persistently absent” – and the evidence tells us that persistent absence can dramatically lower attainment at both primary and secondary levels.

We are working in line with the Department for Education's (DfE) “Working Together to Improve School Attendance” guidance, which sets clear expectations for schools, parents, and local authorities. This framework emphasises early support, strong communication with families, and—where needed—accountability. We have also seen recent announcements around Ofsted placing a greater emphasis on ensuring high attendance.

Your role as parents and carers is crucial. By ensuring your child attends school every day, on time, you are giving them the best possible foundation for success both now and in the future.

## Punctuality Counts Too

Arriving late not only disrupts your child's learning but also the learning of others. When children arrive after registration, they may miss essential parts of the school day, including teaching, instructions, and social routines.

Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time every morning. Schools will be closely monitoring patterns of lateness, and we will be working together to support families where punctuality is becoming a concern.

## Holidays during term time

We know family time is important, but taking holidays during the school term can have a real impact on your child's learning, friendships, and confidence in the classroom. Even a few days away can make it harder for children to keep up and feel settled. We encourage families to

plan holidays outside of term dates so that children can make the most of every school day and we can work together to give them the best possible start in life. We will refer all holiday absence to the Local Authority for action.

### **Support and Consequences**

Our schools are here to support you if you're facing challenges in getting your child to school. It is more important than ever that we work together to make every school day count. Please do speak to your school's attendance officer or pastoral team if you need help – early intervention is always best.

However, we must also be clear: continued poor attendance or unauthorised absence can lead to formal intervention, including the possibility of fixed penalty notices (fines) issued by the local authority. We always aim to work in partnership first, but we have a legal duty to ensure children are in school regularly.

This year is full of promise, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the best chance of success.

Let's make 2025–26 a year of high ambition, strong attendance, and outstanding progress for every pupil.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Lewis', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Lewis  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust