



# Race Leys Infant School

Hurst Rd • Bedworth • Warwickshire • CV12 8AD  
Tel: 024 76312221 • Email: [admin2614@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2614@welearn365.com)

Co-Headteachers: Mrs L Duncan & Mrs J Langtree

## Important Update: New Attendance Rules and Parental Fines for September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you all well. During the Summer, the DfE have made changes to attendance regulations which has led to many changes for our Attendance Policy. We will be sharing this with you this week. We have worked closely with our colleagues at Warwickshire Attendance Service and have agreed that we will hold off our referrals until after the October Half Term to give parents the time to understand these changes.

We remain a school that puts the needs of the children and families at the forefront of all we do, and we strive for a supportive approach to improving school attendance.

The Department for Education has mandated new attendance regulations aimed at promoting consistent school attendance and ensuring that every child receives a quality education. As part of these regulations, stricter measures will be implemented, including the enforcement of fines for non-compliance with attendance requirements.

Key highlights of the new attendance rules and parental fines include:

1. **Increased Accountability:** As a school, we will be required to maintain accurate records of student attendance and report any instances of non-attendance to the local authority.
2. **Parental Fines:** Parents/guardians whose children fail to meet the minimum attendance requirements (95%) without valid reasons may be subject to fines as per the statutory guidelines, and in line with our attendance policy which can be found on the school website. These fines serve as a means of reinforcing the importance of regular school attendance for academic achievement and overall well-being.

Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. All fines are payable to the local authority, not the school.

3. **Supportive Measures:** While the enforcement of fines is a necessary step in ensuring compliance with attendance regulations, we understand that some families may face



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challenges that impact their ability to meet attendance requirements. In such cases, we will work closely with parents/guardians to provide support and assistance in addressing underlying issues affecting attendance, through Individual Attendance Plans which are reviewed periodically.

- 4. Collaborative Approach:** We believe that fostering a collaborative partnership between schools and families is essential in promoting positive attendance habits among students. By working together, we can create a supportive environment that encourages regular school attendance and academic success.

We recognise that these changes may raise questions or concerns, and we are committed to providing you with the information and support you need to navigate this transition smoothly. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding as we implement these important changes to support the educational journey of all our children.

Kindest Regards

Mrs J Langtree  
Attendance Champion  
Co-Headteacher



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