



## Coombe Dean School Attendance Guidance for Parents/Carers

### Why is attendance important?

Excellent attendance at school is linked to better academic progress and attainment by ensuring pupils access a broad curriculum as well as extracurricular activities.

Students with 95% and above attendance in 2024-2025 on average achieved 1.31 grades higher than students with below 90% attendance across their curriculum.

On average a student with 95% + attendance is 2.5 times more likely to achieve a 5 and above in both Maths and English.

During their time in Coombe Dean, students are in school for a maximum of 940 days. This equates to 4700 hours of education. In one year of school, students have 940 lessons. This table shows how quickly learning is affected by attendance:

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9.4 days	19 sessions	1.9 weeks	47 lessons
90%	18.8 days	38 sessions	3.8 weeks	94 lessons
85%	28.2 days	56 sessions	5.6 weeks	141 lessons
80%	37.6 days	75 sessions	7.5 weeks	188 lessons
75%	47 days	94 sessions	9.4 weeks	235 lessons
70%	56.4 days	113 sessions	11.3 weeks	282 lessons
65%	65.8 days	132 sessions	13.2 weeks	329 lessons

## What is the Law?

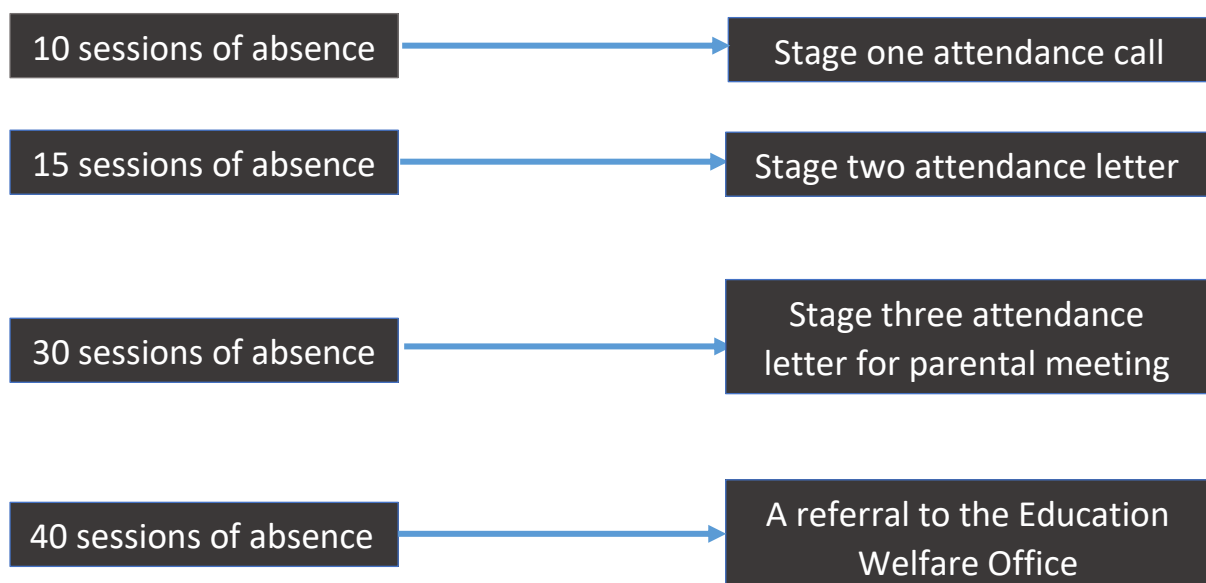
By law, all children of compulsory school age must receive a full-time education that meets their needs and parents are responsible for making sure they attend school if they are on roll.

A child who misses 10% of school is considered a persistently absent student. Parents are considered to be breaking the law when their child misses school regularly and can therefore be fined.

## What are we doing when students are absent?

Students' absences are monitored by the Attendance Officer in school, who works closely with Year Team Leaders as well as the Education Welfare Officers from both Westcountry Schools Trust and the Local Authority. At Coombe Dean we are here to work with parents and to support students into school.

From September 2023 we have had an attendance procedure in place for students who are missing their education. This is detailed below:



## How are absences recorded?

There are 2 sessions that make one school day, an AM and PM session. In order to get 100% attendance for the day, students need to be on time to school in the morning and have present marks for both sessions.

**There are different types of absences:**

**Unauthorised absences** – when the child is missing school without permission for example a birthday treat, a day trip or shopping.

**Authorised absences** – when there is permission for the absence. This is rare and parents need to request the absence in advance along with the reason and any supporting evidence.

**Illness** – If your child is genuinely too ill to attend school. The school must be notified every day the child is absent and a reason must be given. If students have a long-term illness, then please contact the school to discuss additional support.

A student can only be marked present when they are physically in school or at a school event.

## How can parents support good attendance?

- Make appointments and holidays outside of school times, wherever possible.
- Try to establish a good routine so that your child is in good habits, for example, getting a good night's sleep, allowing plenty of time to get ready in the morning, having school uniform ready and bags packed the night before.
- Don't allow your child to stay off for a minor ailment
- Ensure your child arrives on time at school – not late.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Work with school staff to support attendance and behaviour.
- Keep in regular contact with the school regarding absences or any difficulties – we are here to help and support your child.



\*So there's plenty of time for shopping, holidays and appointments!

### Did you know?

When pupils attend school they:

- ✓ Can achieve their full potential
- ✓ Have better career prospects
- ✓ Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- ✓ Grow in confidence
- ✓ Keep up with work and homework
- ✓ Make new friends