

## A Letter To All Parents And Carers of Children In Cramlington Schools.

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As a partnership of schools in Cramlington, we all share the understanding of the importance of school attendance. Alongside clearly established links between good attendance and higher attainment are additional advantages such as: positive social relationships, improved well-being and an increase in confidence levels and independence.

Northumberland County Council has set an expectation that children achieve at least 97% attendance and as a community of schools in Cramlington we are asking for your support to help us achieve this from our young people. Concerns remain high in schools about increased absence levels and it is a real challenge to recover the attendance levels seen before the pandemic.

As a group of headteachers, we have met together to agree some core principles which we ask for your support with:

1. Avoid taking holidays during term time. We understand this can be challenging, however lost learning when a child is not at school is extremely difficult to recover.
2. Unless your child is very unwell, your child should come to school. Please consult the handy NHS guide to help you with this:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>  
If your child does become unwell in school, rest assured that staff will monitor this and contact you.
3. Please try to make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, please try and make appointments towards the end of the school day.
4. Put in place good morning and bedtime routines for your child so they are well-rested and ready to tackle school each day. Talk positively about school together at home and emphasise the importance of learning and being around their friends.
5. Talk to us in school about any worries you or your child may have and remember – we have a wealth of strategies to support your child but we can only do this if they are present in school.

Please help us to help your child by ensuring that they are in school and on time. Give your child the best chance of academic success and give your child the best chance of reaching their potential: **attendance matters.**

