

Attendance at Dixons McMillan

At Dixons McMillan Academy we believe that education has the power to change lives. We therefore expect students to attend school every day. Our minimum expectation for your child's attendance is 97%. We are passionate about all students having very good attendance because we know that there is a proven link between attendance and achievement. We also strongly believe that attending school regularly is one of the best ways to ensure young people enjoy their childhood. Over the last 3 years, attendance at Dixons McMillan Academy has increased significantly. We are proud that our families are working with us to prioritise school attendance.

Our promise

We pride ourselves on the strong academy outcomes our students achieve. Last year our GCSE results were amongst the very best in Bradford. This achievement is driven by strong attendance. Being in school every day ensures our students access the fantastic lessons our teachers deliver day in and day out. We truly believe the Dixons McMillan community offers our students a special opportunity. A Dixons McMillan student who misses a day of school does not only miss 6 lessons; they miss 6 Dixons McMillan lessons!

Attendance matters

- In examinations, 80% is often a very good score; this is not the case for attendance. Anything less than 100% attendance will result in a student starting to develop gaps in their knowledge that will impact on their learning and their GCSE examination results. Even our minimum attendance expectation of 97% results in 36 missed lessons over the course of one school year!

Attendance during one academic year	Days missed	Lessons missed
100% attendance	0	0
97% attendance	6	36
95% attendance	9	54
90% attendance	19	114

Absence protocols

In almost all circumstances, we would recommend students attend school in the first instance, even if they are feeling unwell. In almost all circumstances our School Nurse and our trained First Aiders can provide the support needed to have a successful day in school. However, if a family feels their child may need to be absent from school, they must contact the school before 8.00am on every day of absence. This should be done by contacting the school on 01274 089880 and selecting attendance.

If communication is not made by the family, then the absence will be treated as unauthorised. Like all other unauthorised absences this makes legal intervention more likely. Where we are unable to speak with families directly regarding an absence a member of staff may visit the home of a student on the first day of absence. Any student who is absent for a second day consecutively, may also receive a home visit from a staff member regardless of prior family communication with the school.

Students who are late

Students need to be in the academy for 8.00am. If a student arrives after this time, then a 30-minute same day Correction will be issued – families will be informed of this via MCAS. If a student arrives after 8.30am, then an unauthorised absence code will be used, increasing the likelihood of legal intervention, a 30-minute same day Correction will also be issued – families will be informed of this via MCAS.

Removing barriers to attendance

We do all we can to remove barriers to attendance for our students. We encourage any family who has concerns about a possible barrier to attendance for their child to reach out to the school to discuss their concerns. We have a highly skilled Mountain Rescue team, a qualified School Nurse, colleagues trained to provide wellbeing support and a large Pastoral Team.

Where student attendance is below academy expectations, we may invite families into school in order to meet with colleagues and identify actions to remove barriers to attendance. Where attendance issues are persistent and support has not proven effective, we will, if required, pursue legal intervention. In some cases, this results in fines being issued by Bradford City Council.

Medical appointments and holidays

Medical and dental appointments must be made outside academy hours. If you are unable to make out of hours medical appointments, you must provide medical evidence, otherwise the absence will be unauthorised.

Holidays during term time are not permitted and will lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued by Bradford Council.