



Dear Parent/Carer

Working Together to Improve Attendance

Firstly, we'd like to thank all of our parents and carers who support us in making sure children attend school regularly, and for keeping in touch with us if your child is unable to attend.

At Wildern, we are proud of the positive culture of learning and commitment shown by our students. Last academic year, our attendance was above the national average, which really reflects how much our community values being in school every day. We want every student to feel encouraged and supported to attend, knowing that being present in lessons gives them the very best chance to succeed, make friends, and enjoy their school experience.

You may have seen in the media that school attendance is a national focus at the moment. We wanted to share with you what this looks like at Wildern, and how we can continue to work together to keep attendance strong for all of our students.

Being in school every day has so many benefits: it helps students keep up with their learning, build lasting friendships, and develop the skills and habits that will support them in the future. We know that when students miss school, it can quickly create gaps in their learning, making it harder to stay on track. Last year's GCSE results clearly showed the link between good attendance and high achievement, as well as positive wellbeing and relationships.

Attendance at Wildern and GCSE results

Attendance	Achieved Grade 9-5 in both English & Maths	Achieved Grade 9-4 in both English & Maths	Achievement in <u>every</u> subject compared to all students nationally
Over 96%	67.2%	86.2%	+0.48 (half a grade better)
80-89%	21.2%	27.3%	-0.86 (nearly a whole grade worse)
Below 80%	5.7%	22.9%	-1.92 (nearly 2 grades worse)

Research shows that absence from school, for whatever reason, can disadvantage a child by creating gaps in learning, which affect a child's ability to succeed.



From Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE 2022)

We understand that sometimes children are genuinely too unwell to attend school, and in those cases staying at home is the right thing to do. On those occasions, please contact us before 8:30am either by emailing **absence@wildern.org** or via the Edulink app.

Medical advice is clear, however, that many mild illnesses, such as a cough or cold without a temperature, shouldn't prevent children from attending school. The NHS guide [*"Is my child too ill for school?"*](#) can help you decide if your child is well enough to attend. We have also included some useful links at the end of this letter to support you.

Arriving on Time

The Wildern school day begins at **8:30am**, with a reminder bell at 8:25am for students to move to their tutor rooms. If a student arrives after registration without a valid reason, this is recorded as an unauthorised absence in line with DfE guidance.

Arriving late can mean:

- Missing key instructions at the start of the day
- Feeling unsettled or left out
- Disrupting the learning of others
- Developing poor habits that may affect future employability

We understand that traffic around the school can be busy. Some ways that may help include:

- Leaving home a little earlier to avoid the rush
- Dropping your child at either end of Wildern Lane so they can walk the last five minutes (often quicker than waiting in the car)
- Writing a note in your child's planner if lateness is unavoidable, so the Student Services Team can register them correctly

Please avoid driving onto the school site as this increase's congestion.

If a child is repeatedly late, we may invite you in to meet with your child's DOPA so we can explore together how best to support you.

Working Together

We want every student to have the very best future outcomes, and strong attendance plays a vital role in that. Please do take some time to talk with your child about the importance of attending and being punctual. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first instance. We are here to help.

Thank you again for your continued support in helping Wildern students thrive.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Thomas
Assistant Headteacher