



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Attendance

In the UK, research has consistently shown that regular school attendance is crucial for academic success and overall well-being. For example, a report by the Department for Education (DfE) found a clear link between attendance and attainment at both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. Unsurprisingly, the [data](#) showed that students with higher attendance rates achieved better GCSE and A-Level results.

Attending school isn't only great for academic success and achievement, it supports wellbeing. Research shows that consistent school attendance supports social and emotional [development](#). Schools provide a structured environment where children can build positive peer relationships, which are essential for mental health and well-being. This is one of the key reasons why we place such emphasis on the idea of belonging.

Robert Smyth Academy students attend more frequently than the national and local average and as a result they make great progress both academically and socially. These findings underscore the importance of addressing attendance issues early and consistently to ensure students have the best possible opportunities.

Punctuality

Punctuality is crucial in ensuring that lessons run smoothly and without disruption. When students arrive on time, they can fully engage with the material from the start (we call this the 'Do Now' task), which helps create a focused and productive learning environment.

Any parent reading this letter can imagine what might happen if they were consistently late to a meeting at work; not only would they miss important information, but their late arrival would also disrupt the flow of the meeting and inconvenience others. Similarly, when students are late to class, it interrupts the teacher's lesson and distracts other students, making it harder for everyone to stay on track. **By being punctual, students show respect for their teachers and classmates, and they set themselves up for academic success.**

Parents can ensure that their children develop this valuable life skill in several ways, at home:

1. **Preparation:** Make sure they lay out clothes, pack school bags, and setting alarms. This reduces morning rush and stress. If you need a 'bad cop', tell them the Principal said they had to do it!
2. **Establish Routines:** Create a daily schedule that includes specific times for waking up, meals, homework, and bedtime. Consistent routines help them understand time management.
3. **Use Visual Aids:** Tools like calendars, clocks, and timers can help children visualise the time.
4. **Set Clear Expectations:** Explain the importance of being on time and the consequences of lateness. Make sure children understand what is expected of them.
5. **Positive Reinforcement:** Praise and reward punctual behaviour. Positive reinforcement can motivate children to continue being on time.

At school, the gates will close at 8.45am and any student who arrives after this time will be marked as late and assigned a detention. Similarly, lateness to lesson will be sanctioned by teachers, as appropriate.

We sincerely thank all families for the great standards that they set regarding attendance and punctuality. This gives students the foundation for success and wellness, and it allows our teachers to focus on teaching.

Yours sincerely,

D Cleary
Principal



every school day counts



every minute counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

