



**Long Sutton County Primary School**  
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Registered Company Number 07788995

Headteacher: Miss S Gray

### Attendance

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I'm sure you know, Long Sutton is part of the Keystone Academy Trust. The trust has just updated its Attendance Policy to state that certain unauthorised absences, including unauthorised holidays taken in term time, should be passed to Lincolnshire County Council which may result in parents receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice (a fine) from the County Council. We have to follow this policy, from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Attendance is discussed at every Governing Board meeting as it is a major issue at the school. At our most recent meeting, we had a long discussion and, reluctantly, we came to the same conclusion as the Trust, that Miss Gray, from September 2023, has to consider passing certain unauthorised absences to Lincolnshire County Council. She will still be able to authorise term time holidays in exceptional circumstances.

The governors and the school have tried numerous different ways of increasing attendance over the last few years and attendance is still below the national guidelines. We had a lot of discussions with Mr Lord about considering Fixed Penalty Notices and we always resisted, knowing that holidays are much more expensive in the school holidays, and we didn't want you to be penalised. We now agree that nothing that has been tried has succeeded in raising attendance to what is seen as acceptable by Ofsted and by the government, so we are now going to follow government policy to try to get to 96% attendance.

A week's term time holiday and five days' illness in a year brings a child's attendance down to 94%. This affects their education. An area taught in that week is an area of learning that has been missed.

We are now in line with all other local primary and secondary schools and the decision to pass certain unauthorised absences to Lincolnshire CC was reached after trying every other avenue to increase attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of the Local Governing Body

