



Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8

21st February 2023

Attendance Policy Update for Parents & Carers

Dear Parent and Carers,

At The Federation of Middleham (VA) and Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, we are committed to:

- Ensuring parents follow the framework set in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, which states that:

“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education suitable –

- (a) to age, ability and aptitude, and
 - (b) to any special educational needs a child may have
- Either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

- Promoting and modelling good attendance behaviour.
- Ensuring equality and fairness of treatment for all.
- Implementing our policies in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
- Offering early intervention and working with other agencies to ensure the health and safety of our pupils.

Pupils cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend school.

Following publication of "[Working together to improve school attendance](#)" published by the DfE in May 2022, I have been working closely with headteachers from Swaledale Alliance, identifying current trends and concerns in attendance within schools both locally and nationally. We have also been working together to produce an Attendance Policy that meets the requirements from the DfE.

Please find attached with this email:

- The Federation Attendance & Absence Policy
- An updated copy of 'Leave of absence from School' form (in line with new policy)
- Attendance Matters Parent Guide – which gives some of the key messages

We will be providing an update on your child's attendance at the forthcoming parent/teacher consultation meetings in March.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Mrs Mann
Executive Headteacher