



St Damian's RC Science College

**Whole School
Attendance Target
97%
2017 - 2018**



Attainment Achievement Ambition

Why is Education important for your child?

Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.

Children who do not attend school regularly are taking a risk because:

They will miss vital work in school and may have difficulty in catching up with others. It will even affect their coursework and exam results.

They may learn bad habits about reliability and time keeping, which might affect and impact on Further Education or Employment opportunities.

There are strong links between attendance and attainment. Results show that students who attend regularly achieve better grades. Many students have difficulty maintaining friendships if they have long or numerous absences.

Research suggests that 17 days missed from a school year equates to a **GCSE GRADE**.

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 Non School Days a Year 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments					
190 School Days in each year	10 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence A term missed	35 days absence	47 days absence
190 days for your child's education	180 Days of Education	171 Days of Education	161 Days of Education	152 Days of Education	143 Days of Education
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.		Worrying Less Chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress.		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!	

Leave of absence during term time

From 1st September 2013, the new law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. The Head teacher of St Damian's would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional. Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for their child on holiday during term time without consent from school. Penalty notices are £60 if paid within 21 days rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. Failure to make the payment will result in the Local Authority taking legal action for failure to ensure regular attendance at school under Sec 444(1) Education Act 1996.

Reporting Absence

- Your child is expected to attend school every day.
- We do not consider a cold or cough to be an illness that prevents your child attending school. Only keep them at home if absolutely necessary.
- Contact school ask for the Attendance team or Option 1 on the answer machine Telephone No. 0161 330 5974 before 9.00 am.
- Give a reason for the absence.
- Where possible indicate when your child will be returning.
- If your child is going to be absent for longer than a day please keep us updated daily.
- Your child will be expected to bring a letter to Mrs Wright on return to school to explain the reason for your child's absence.
- For any prolonged illness you will be required to produce medical evidence from your GP for school to authorise the absence.
- If your child has to attend a prearranged medical appointment please send in the appointment card or letter.
- Medical appointments – please make appointments outside school hours.
- If this is not possible, try to make first thing in the morning or late afternoon so that your child does not miss a whole day off school. We cannot authorise a full day's absence for a medical appointment.

- 93.5% + =Very good chance of 5 A* - C Grades
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- 92.5% = Good chance of 5 A*- C Grades
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- 91.5% = Fair chance of 5 A* - C Grades
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- 90% = Less than a 50% chance of 5 A* - C Grades
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- 88% = Less than 35% chance of 5 A* - C Grades
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- Less than 88% = Less than 30% chance of 5 A*-C Grades

Late Arrival at School

Why is punctuality important

- Developing the 'on time' routine in childhood is an essential habit learnt for life.
- Latecomers miss the teacher's instructions for the day and often don't know what to do.
- Students who join the class late often feel uncomfortable and disrupt those who are already working.
- Much of the student's socialisation takes place before and after classes.
- The Law says parents must ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually.
- If your child arrives late for school after 9.15 am they will be issued with a lunchtime detention. If lateness becomes frequent you will be sent a letter to attend a meeting to discuss this further.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days

Frequent lateness can add up to a considerable amount of learning lost and can seriously disadvantage your chance of achieving your potential.



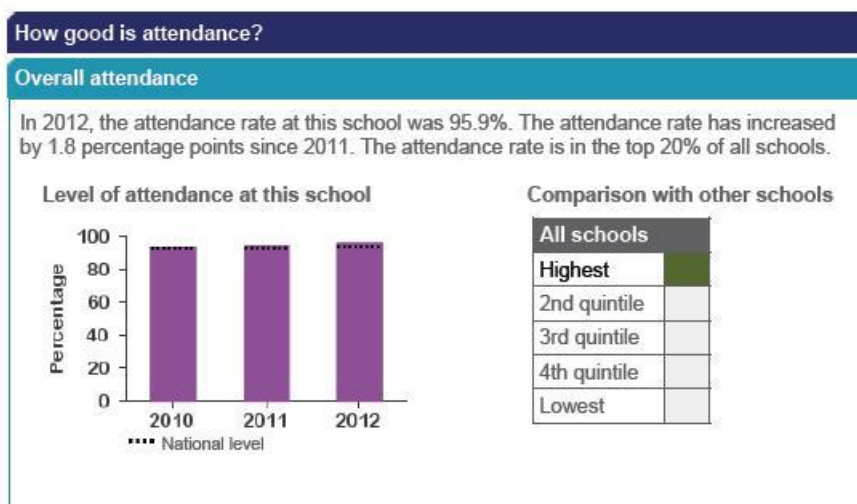
Rewards

At the end of each school term there are rewards assemblies for all year groups. Here students are congratulated and rewarded for their 100% attendance, Champion Attendance Forms all are rewarded with a certificate, our students are entered for a prize draw.

Twice a year there are rewards trips for pupils with excellent attendance.

We celebrate our good attendance through school newsletters, our website and letters home to parents/carers.

Outstanding Attendance 2012 - 2013



St Damian's Vine Tree

Our vision is:

“Each pupil makes up the vine of St Damian's and together our community grows stronger through our attendance”



Our Vine Tree is situated in the hall, this represents our 100% attendance students, plus our most improved attendees. At the end of each term the students on 100% attendance go into a prize draw for their effort.