

## Attendance

As each new school term begins, we consider our pupils' attendance. The pupils at St Brigid's are rewarded for good attendance in a number of ways: the class with the best attendance is rewarded with an extra play and the prestigious Attendance Cup on a weekly basis. The class with the best attendance over the half term period is rewarded with a trip to SPACEworld. Our pupils love this!

### Knowsley Local Authority's stance on attendance

The council's Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, Councillor Gary See, is committed to improving the quality of education throughout the borough and believes the importance of regular attendance cannot be overestimated when ensuring that all young people have the best opportunities for accessing education, employment or training.

If children have good attendance levels, they are likely to achieve better exam results. Research shows that even a few days missed from school can mean a drop of a GCSE grade across all subjects. Good attendance also shows potential employers that a student is reliable, which may help improve their chances of getting a better job in the future. The message is simple – give school attendance 100%.

Parents and carers have a responsibility for making sure their child goes to school regularly and doesn't miss out on their education. In addition, Headteachers will not authorise requests for days off in term-time, other than in exceptional circumstances, which do not include holidays, birthdays or visiting relatives.

We acknowledge that holidays may be cheaper during term time but we must give notice that those families who decide to take annual holidays during term time may incur a fine of £60. If this is unpaid, the fine is increased to £120. Non-payment of fines may result in court action and a possible custodial sentence. All fines are administered by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority regularly monitor the school attendance of pupils and will work with the pupil, their parent or carer and the school to address any attendance issues at an early stage. For further information, tips and advice on how to improve your child's attendance, contact the School Inclusion Team on 0151 443 5147. In addition, an advice to parents leaflet can be downloaded from the council's website – [www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)