

Expectations for September

Attendance:

At St Gabriel's, **we aim for all students to have 100% attendance** and we reward this. Good attendance is 95% = no more than 9 days off a year (190 school days – good attendance is 181+ days).

Attendance During One School Year	Equals Days Absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Absence over 5 years
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	¼ year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	½ year
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	1 year
70%	59 days	12 weeks	300 lessons	1 ½ years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400 lessons	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500 lessons	2 ½ years

Pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were almost twice as likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time (**relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year**) and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (**relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school**).

Being in school is important your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Studies show that regular attendance at school has a positive impact on your child's future; not just as it increases their chances of achieving GCSEs at higher grades but because it is also a learned behaviour that is a key to future success.

I also need to remind parents that under national regulations, headteachers are only able to authorise term-time absence in exceptional circumstances. Therefore, holidays taken during term time without authorisation will be recorded as unauthorised absences and may result in a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

Updated Penalty Notice System – In Line with DfE Guidance

In August 2024, the Department for Education introduced a national framework for penalty notices, which schools and local authorities are required to follow. This includes a limit of two penalty notices per parent per child within a three-year rolling period, after which, further action must be escalated.

The process is as follows:

First Offence (within a 3-year period)

- A Penalty Notice is issued at £160 per parent, per child, payable within 28 days.
- If paid within 21 days, the amount is reduced to £80 per parent, per child.

Second Offence (within the same 3-year period)

- A second Penalty Notice may be issued at a flat rate of £160 per parent, per child, payable within 28 days.

- There is no reduced rate for second offences.

Third Offence and Beyond (within the same 3-year period)

- A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued, instead, the case will be escalated and may result in prosecution.

Our Expectations

We understand that holidays are important, but removing children from school during term time affects learning, progress and overall attendance. It also risks legal and financial consequences. We ask that families avoid booking holidays during term time.

Uniform:

Girls – Blazer, blue pinafore dress **to be worn with black tights only** or tailored trousers, school or navy blue v-neck jumper (**optional**), black polishable school shoes (**no other colours, no metal enhancements, no fabric, no mesh**), white shirt and tie

Boys – Blazer, trousers, school jumper or navy blue v-neck jumper (**optional**), black polishable school shoes (**no other colours, no metal enhancements, no fabric, no mesh**), white shirt and tie with light blues stripes

No Hoodies or track suit tops as coats.

No Trainers.

No lycra flared trousers, jeans or leggings

No nose studs or other facial piercings

Only one set of stud earrings – no hoops

No make-up and no false eyelashes

Black polishable school shoes, no other colours, no metal enhancements, no fabric, no mesh

Acceptable footwear



Unacceptable footwear



Acceptable school trousers



Unacceptable school trousers

