

DSN/NBA

17th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Attendance Matters Pathway for Schools**

I am writing to advise you of the new Local Authority 'Attendance Matters Pathway for Schools'. This is the process agreed by the Local Authority and all Rotherham schools to address irregular or non-school attendance.

There is a strong body of evidence which demonstrates that children who attend school regularly are much more likely to perform well in their education and achieve positive outcomes in later life.

We appreciate that most families experience difficulties at some point in their lives which impact on their child's school attendance. However, if poor attendance is sustained, the damage to a child's development and future prospects can be irreversible.

In conjunction with the Local Authority, we are keen to support families to overcome the barriers which prevent children from accessing education. Support is available for families through the Early Help Assessment and Plan. This is a process which helps professionals understand the issues that may be affecting the child and the family and to plan and implement appropriate support. However, in the event that poor or non-school attendance continues, despite ongoing support from Early Help and other agencies, the new 'Attendance Matters Pathway for Schools' requires us to pursue enforcement action where no significant improvement has been made to school attendance.

In line with Section 444 of the Education Act (1996), parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a suitable education in accordance with their age, ability and aptitude. Failure to do so may attract a maximum penalty of £2,500 or a period of imprisonment for up to three months.

Maltby Learning Trust is committed to doing everything in its power to support our families and local community. Working closely with Early Help, we hope to offer support, guidance and advice to help our children, young people and families achieve their full potential and better outcomes in the future.

If there is any advice or support we can offer or if you would like to discuss the Local Authority 'Attendance Matters Pathway for Schools', please do not hesitate to contact any member of our Attendance Team.

Yours sincerely



D.L. Sutton  
Chief Executive Officer