



Irthington Village School  
Irthington  
Nr Carlisle  
Cumbria  
CA6 4NJ  
Tel: 01228 212050



Email: [admin@irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk)  
<http://www.irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk/>  
*Headteacher Lynn Harrison*

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

We write to inform you about some changes to our attendance policy resulting from new government policy and LA guidance which we are obliged to implement. Post lockdown, there is concern about a drop in average school attendance figures nationally. Whilst recognising the continuing impact of Covid on attendance, the Department for Education is concerned about other causes of unnecessary absence.

At Irthington, we have also noticed an increase in absences over the last few months. We appreciate that illness in children is unavoidable and unpredictable and sometimes necessitates absence from school. However, unnecessary absence should be avoided at all costs as we know that this has a negative impact on pupil progress. As a school we value high attendance and we know that uninterrupted attendance gives pupils the best chance of success in their schooling and ensures that they are not deprived of all the educational opportunities offered to them.

The new LA attendance policy has been adopted by the school and is available on the school website or by request from the school office. The policy clearly explains what constitutes an authorised and an unauthorised absence as well as the levels at which a child's attendance will be considered a cause for concern.

You will shortly receive a letter detailing your child's attendance for the Spring term and for each term thereafter based on the new guidelines. Attached to this letter is a summary of the red, amber or green ratings which will be allocated to your child based on their attendance for the previous term.

The Governing Body is grateful for your support in working with us to ensure high levels of attendance and punctuality for your child.

Yours sincerely

The Governing Body