



To Parents/Carers of all Neath Port Talbot pupils

Dear Parent/Carer,

REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

We take great pride in the excellent reputation of our schools in Neath Port Talbot. Throughout the years, our pupils have consistently excelled in both the classroom and in a range of extracurricular activities from sports and music to drama and arts. One common theme among these high-achieving students is their good attendance record. Studies have repeatedly shown that students with regular attendance achieve better results. The more time children and young people spend with other children in the classroom the greater the chance they have of making friends, feeling included and developing social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Recognising the critical role attendance plays in a child's education, we recently launched the "Miss School, Miss Out" campaign. The campaign focuses on the benefits of regular and punctual school attendance, the available support for your child, and how you can help to prevent absence. To learn more about the campaign, please visit our dedicated webpage: www.npt.gov.uk/school-attendance.

Across Wales pupil attendance was impacted by the pandemic, however, since then we have noticed not all pupils have re-engaged fully with school and attending as they were previously. That is why we within Neath Port Talbot are doing as much as we can to ensure that all children and young people get the best possible start in life and opportunities to return to full-time learning.

We understand that various factors, such as medical appointments, illness, disabilities or family bereavements, can sometimes prevent pupils from attending school despite their willingness to do so. If you encounter difficulties in encouraging your child to attend school or believe they require additional support, we urge you to contact your school in the first instance or the Education Welfare Service. Staff are available to discuss the issues with you and suggest possible adjustments to improve your child's attendance. They can also explore other support services that might be suitable.

www.npt.gov.uk

Addysg, Hamdden a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg, Hamdden a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ

Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning
Director of Education, Leisure & Long Learning
Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ

We also understand that times are tough at the moment with the ongoing cost of living crisis, so we'd like to remind you of the support you may be eligible for with things like household bills, childcare costs, school related costs such as uniform and school meals, and general advice about how to manage money and debt. Visit www.npt.gov.uk/CostOfLivingHelp to find out more.

There are clear long-term benefits for pupils attending school regularly; we would like to encourage all families to support the return of their child to regular attendance at school, if they are not already doing so.

The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance during one school year	Equals number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent
95%	9 days	2 weeks
90%	19 days	4 weeks
85%	29 days	6 weeks
80%	38 days	8 weeks

If you feel you need support or strategies to help your child to return to school regularly, please contact your school or education welfare officer, via the Education Welfare Service ews@npt.gov.uk

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring your child's future success.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr. A.D. Thomas
Director of Education,
Leisure & Lifelong Learning**



**Cllr. Mrs. N. Jenkins
Cabinet Member for
Education and Early Years**