Dear Parent/Carer,

For the 2024-25 Academic year Wallace Hall Academy has identified improved school attendance as a School Improvement Plan priority. This is as a result of declining levels of pupil attendance both locally and nationally since 2016. Wallace Hall Academy has also seen our attendance levels dip and, although we are still above Regional and National averages, we have found that this is having a detrimental impact on the school experience for pupils. Research shows that poor attendance can have an impact on other aspects of school life including relationships, emotional wellbeing, mental health and attainment. The graphics below give an insight into the impact of missed school and lateness.



The tables below show the impact attendance has had on attainment at Wallace Hall. The tables on the top show that there is a direct correlation in all measures between the attendance % of pupils and the number of qualifications they gain at S4, S5 and S6. This trend is replicated in S1-3 in the tables overleaf where the average Curriculum for Excellence level is measured.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **S4 – SQA Exams 2023/24** | **S5 – SQA Exams 2023/24** | **S6 – SQA Exams 2023/24** |
| **Attendance (%)** | **Nat 5 passes** | **Higher passes** | **High & AH passes** |
| 95-100 | 5.7 | 3.5 | 2.5 |
| 90-95 | 5.4 | 3.0 | 1.7 |
| 80-90 | 3.6 | 2.4 | 1.4 |
| 0-80 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 0.7 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **S1 - Progress and Achievement 2023/24** | **S2 - Progress and Achievement 2023/24** | **S3 - Progress and Achievement 2023/24** |
| **Attendance (%)** | **Attainment** **(avg CfE Level)** | **Attainment** **(avg CfE Level)** | **Attainment** **(avg CfE Level)** |
| 95-100 | 2.00 | 2.46 | 3.15 |
| 90-95 | 1.96 | 2.39 | 3.08 |
| 80-90 | 1.92 | 2.34 | 3.02 |
| 0-80 | 1.65 | 2.01 | 2.69 |

As a school we recognise that we all have a collective responsibility to support the attendance of our pupils, the list below shows some of the strategies we have in place to support attendance.

* Early identification from classroom teachers where attendance is having a detrimental impact on a pupil
* Regular tracking of attendance and proactive contact with pupils and parents (via phonecall or letter) to support attendance
* Tracking pupil wellbeing three times per year and having conversations with pupils that raise concerns
* Aiming to provide alternative curriculum options for pupils struggling to access all mainstream classes
* Enhanced planning and coordination of support for pupils struggling with attendance
* Working closely with the Local Authority Attendance Support Service to provide targeted support where appropriate
* Termly attendance reports being sent to all parents

Reporting Absence

If you child is going to be absent it is important that we know. Please inform us by either:

* Calling the School Office on 01848 332120 – please leave a voicemail
* Emailing the school at: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

We hope that this provides you with some information about the importance of pupils attending school as much as they can. We understand that personal circumstances can result in poor attendance or regular late coming for your child and are sympathetic to this. If this is the case, please don’t hesitate to contact us and we will work together with you in the best interest of your child.

Kind regards



Euan Mack

Depute Headteacher