

*Please ask for:*

*Direct Line:*

*E-Mail:*

*Our Ref:*

*Your Ref:*

*Date:*

17 October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I am delighted that schools have been able to return to normal opening this autumn following two and a half difficult years. However, after such an uncertain time not everything has returned as it was before the pandemic. For example, we have noticed that many children in Swansea are not attending school as regularly as they were previously. We are worried about this because evidence suggests that good attendance at school improves life chances for children and young people and we want to be certain we do everything possible to ensure each child in Swansea has the best opportunity to succeed.

The most obvious benefits of regular school attendance are that pupils are given the best opportunity to learn when they are in school. Good attendance supports achievement in learning and helps children to progress. We would like all children in Swansea to leave school with the qualifications they need to take the next steps they want to in their lives. That may be employment or further study but whatever they choose, good attendance at school should offer the stepping stone to the next stage. It is also important to know that regular attendance at school can help children and young people improve their wellbeing. Benefits of attending school regularly include:

- building good habits and establishing routines which in turn help children to feel secure and gain confidence.
- building good relationships with adults and other children is much easier when attendance is regular. These relationships help children develop self-esteem .
- for a few families, children's regular attendance at school allows parents to get other things done and makes the time at home more enjoyable.
- children who regularly miss sessions, or are often late for school, often feel they are missing out or need to try harder just to understand what is going on or what other children are talking about or doing.
- regular attendance helps many young children to be supported to naturally separate from their parents or carers and begin to develop life skills.

We realise that the uncertainty of the last few years has had an impact on many families and children. We would like to encourage all families to try and return to regular attendance at school, if they are not already. If you feel you need any additional help

and support then you can contact your child's school or our Education Welfare Service [educationwelfareservice@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfareservice@swansea.gov.uk) who may be able to offer help and support.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Morgan-Rees". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Helen Morgan-Rees  
Director of Education