



19th July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Changes to the Law around School Attendance: August 2024

I write to you regarding some important changes around national school attendance laws from the Department of Education which will start at this Academy and all schools in September 2024. The key change is linked to penalty notices or fines for parents/carers when their children do not attend school causing unauthorised absence. The new laws are:

1. 5 days of unauthorised absence over a 10-week period will result in a £160 fine per parent. This is payable within 28 days of the fine and will be discounted to £80 per parent if paid within 21 days.
2. A further 5 days of unauthorised absence over another 10-week period will result in a second fine of £160 per parent. This is payable within 28 days of the fine and will not be discounted for a second time.
3. A third absence of 5 unauthorised days over a 10-week period within a three-year period of the first two absences may mean that a parent could be summoned to the Magistrates Court for knowingly failing to secure good attendance for their child at school (Section 444 (1A) of Education Act 1996).

Taking holidays in term time also count in this new unauthorised absence guidance so please do not book these. We realise that the cost of holidays is more expensive during school holidays, but we cannot authorise these and they will count as unauthorised absence.

Further information on this change to the law is attached from Salford City Council.

Whilst we will work within this legal framework, we also understand that children's attendance can be a challenge for some families. I want to let you know that we are committed to working with you positively to support your child's attendance at school and have a number of interventions we can offer to help.

Parental Contact With The Albion Academy: A New, Quicker Way

As a school community who celebrate inclusivity, we are always looking for better ways to connect with all members of our community. We are aware that when calling into school, it can sometimes be difficult to get through to the correct person, right away via telephone.

Principal Mr M Rogers

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M6 6QT
t: 0161 359 5100
e: contact@albionacademy.co.uk
w: albionacademy.org



Therefore, we are changing the way we would like you to contact us to speed things up for you.

From the 15th July 2024 we are introducing a new online contact form called 'Talk with The Albion Academy'. It is available here: <https://www.albionacademy.org/contact-us>

Using the form, you will be able to contact relevant staff in the academy that can help with your query. Our pledge to you is that any enquiry made using the online form will get a response within 2 working days. In case of emergencies such as urgent family safeguarding and same day absences, you will still be able to phone in to the Albion Academy. However, all other enquiries will be redirected to the online form.

We look forward to continuing working with you, to support your children's progress and learning. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch using the new online contact form, and someone will get back to you. Should you wish to discuss more support around your child's attendance specifically we would also be delighted to help you. If this is the case please speak with your child's Head of Year in the first instance or if you currently have an active Social Worker our Designated Safeguarding Lead. Key contacts for the 2024-25 year to support your child's attendance are below and available through our online contact form 'Talk with The Albion Academy', available here: <https://www.albionacademy.org/contact-us>

- Head of Year 7 - Ms. Reilly
- Head of Year 8 - Mr. Denholme
- Head of Year 9 - Ms. Duale
- Head of Year 10 - Ms. McMillan
- Head of Year 11 - Ms. Dalton
- Designated Safeguarding Lead - Ms. Clarke

Kind regards,

Mathew Rogers
Principal

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