

Attendance Matters ✓

Every School Day Counts

It is vital that all students have excellent attendance at Limehurst!

There is a strong link between regular attendance at school and a child's academic performance:

Students' attendance	Chance of achieving 5 good pass grades at GCSE
100% - 96%	73% of Students achieve 5 good pass grades.
96% - 94%	64% of Students achieve 5 good pass grades.
93% - 90%	55% of Students achieve 5 good pass grades
80% to 70%	Only 20% chance of achieving 5 good pass grades
50% and below	Only 6% of Students achieve 5 good pass grades

We are committed to working with students and parents/carers to achieve our attendance target of 96%.

Attendance Expectations

- **The school day begins at 8.50am.** All students are expected to be in school by this time, regardless of the distance they may have to travel. Those who arrive after 8.50am, must sign in at reception.
- We operate a First Response System to notify parents/carers if their child has not arrived at school or to lessons.
- Parents/carers can help by notifying us in advance about planned absences and arrange medical or dental appointments outside the school day, where possible.
- We request that parents/carers contact the school by 9.30am to let us know if their son/daughter is going to be absent for each day of absence.
- Parents/carers are strongly advised to avoid taking their children on holiday during term time and requests during term time will not be authorised. In exceptional circumstances, written requests for extended leave should be made in advance to the Headteacher. Please be aware that there are assessments and mock exams throughout the academic year for all year groups.

Promoting Attendance

Attendance is monitored daily. Every two weeks, the Attendance Team will compile a list of students' current overall attendance and their attendance for the previous two weeks.

For students whose attendance is 90-95%, they will partake in a two-week programme of focus groups.

For those students whose attendance is below 90%, they will be discussed and if there is no good reason for attendance being this low, then a 1a letter is sent home, stating that their child's attendance will be monitored for the next two weeks. During this period, medical evidence for all absences must be provided, otherwise absences will not be authorised. If attendance improves to an acceptable level, then a 1b letter will be sent home, stating that the student's attendance is no longer being monitored but if it becomes irregular again, then a Parenting Contract Meeting (PCM) will be held.

However, if attendance fails to improve to an acceptable level after two weeks, then a PCM will be held. The student's attendance will be monitored during the next two weeks and if improves then at the PCM Review meeting, the case is closed and a 1b letter is sent home. If no improvement, then school will decide whether to monitor for a further two weeks and then hold a final PCM review meeting, or to refer to the Education Welfare Officer, who may carry out a pre-court interview with parents/carers or issue a penalty notice.

Please see the chart below which shows how absences impact attendance:

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Attendance during the school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately	Which means the number of lessons missed
97%	5 days	1 week	25 lessons
94%	10 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	12 weeks	300 lessons
65%	67 days	14 weeks	350 lessons

Students need to be in school to maximise their learning and success!

- Please be aware that if a student has ½ day (1 session) absence by 30th September 2021 they will have 97% attendance, which is just above the Limehurst attendance target.
- If they have missed 1 day (2 sessions) they will have 95% attendance.

At Limehurst, we reward students who have excellent attendance with termly prize draws to win vouchers, form group rewards, certificates, and prizes.




Covid-19

When reporting an absence, it is important that you provide us with as much information as possible. This will enable us to code the absence correctly & avoid detrimental effects on your child’s attendance. In these unprecedented times, supplying as much information as possible has become even more crucial to protect your child and our school community.

If your child presents with a high temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss (or change) of taste or smell then you should keep your child at home, inform the school and book a test. During the isolating period of waiting for test results, current schoolwork will be made available. You must provide us with evidence of a negative test result before your child returns to school.

In the case of your child testing positive, again you must inform us immediately and isolate at home for 10 days from getting the positive result. If after 10 days your child still feels unwell, they should still stay at home until they feel better. Again, the X code will be applied, and current schoolwork will be provided. If a test comes back inconclusive, you must still isolate and have another test within 5 days of symptoms starting. Again, communication with the school is vital.

If you are unsure of the symptoms your child is presenting, you can refer to the table below. If you are still unsure, you can call 111 to seek further advice.

 RECOGNISING CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS					
SYMPTOMS	CORONAVIRUS <small>Symptoms range from mild to severe</small>	COLD <small>Gradual onset of symptoms</small>	FLU <small>Rapid onset of symptoms</small>	HAYFEVER	ASTHMA
Fever ($\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Common	Rare	Common	No	No
Cough	Common (usually dry & continuous)	Mild	Common (usually dry)	Sometimes (usually dry)	Sometimes (wheeze & cough)
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No	No	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes	No
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	'Itchy' throat	No
Runny / stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common	No
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common	Rare
Aches & pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	No
Diarrhoea	Rare	No	Sometimes (for children)	No	No

Adapted from: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Thank you for your support in helping to raise attendance.

If there are any circumstances which might affect your child's attendance, or you have any queries, please contact either your child's Head of Year or the Attendance Team on the contact details below:

School Office	Telephone: 01509 263444 Email: attendance@limehurst.org.uk
Head of Year 7	Graham Robinson; grobinson@limehurst.org.uk
Head of Year 8	Julie Armstrong; jarmstrong@limehurst.org.uk
Head of Year 9	Steve Simpson; ssimpson@limehurst.org.uk
Head of Year 10	Will Hoey; whoey@limehurst.org.uk
Head of Year 11	MJ Pitt; mpitt@limehurst.org.uk