



Inclusive Attendance

29th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share some important updates regarding our approach to attendance across The Rivers CofE Academy Trust. Our commitment to providing an extraordinary education for your children and support for our families has led us to collaborate with an organisation known as Inclusive Attendance. Together, we aim to empower children to attend school regularly and overcome any potential barriers they may face in their educational journey.

Our new approach is rooted in an inclusive attendance model designed to ensure that everyone - our staff, families, and children - fully understands their individual roles and collective responsibilities in supporting school attendance, active engagement in learning and addressing potential barriers.

To achieve this, we are introducing a Multi-Tiered System of Support, a tiered approach that caters to the unique needs of all children. It begins with our Foundation Support which is embedded across our school culture which leads into our Universal Strategies, progresses to Tier 2, which provides additional support for some children through early help services within the school, and finally, Tier 3, where we ensure that certain children and families have access to specialised resources if required.

Effective communication with all our families is central to our values at The Rivers CofE Academy Trust. In light of this, we will transition from reporting attendance in percentage form to a focus on the number of days missed. This shift will simplify the process, enhance communication, and help all children and families to have a clear understanding of the impact of missed school days on education.

Another significant change we are implementing is moving away from a rewards-based system. Instead, we will adopt a recognition-based approach that allows us to be more inclusive and creative in acknowledging personal achievements and promoting the importance of regular school attendance among both our children and families.

Our renewed focus on this inclusive attendance approach will ultimately help us create a culture where everyone across The Rivers CofE Academy Trust shares collective responsibility for school attendance. Our school websites have all been

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updated with more information on our new approach which will include resources and information that you may find useful at home.

If you have any questions or concerns about our new approach please contact your school's attendance champion, Mrs Heather Lindley.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph Walker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steph Walker

Trust Attendance Strategic Lead