

Education Welfare Services

Giles Academy employs the services of Diane Enderby; Education Welfare Officer. Diane has worked with the academy since September 2016, collaborating with staff and supporting parents and pupils to raise attendance standards across the whole school.

Diane will be monitoring the attendance of all students and communicating with parents, to establish and address the reasons of high absence. Diane will look to support families and encourage pupils to maintain regular attendance at school.

From September 2015, the government revised the attendance baseline figure – every pupil of compulsory school age must have **90% attendance** or above. This is to drive educational success for every young person.

Research shows that *'If a pupil's attendance is below 85%, they have a reduced chance of securing 5A*-C (or equivalent) grades at GCSE. 73% of pupils who have over 95% attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C'* (DfE, 2012, 'Improving attendance at school').

Even with a 90% attendance level a pupil would miss approximately ½ a day each week, adding up to 114 missed lessons per year (19 days absence).

Pupils with less than 90% attendance are known as **Persistent Absentees** (as defined by the government) and every school has a duty to address this issue with a view to looking for an immediate improvement by means of notifying parents/guardians via a letter, arranging meetings in school with pupils and/or parents, agreeing plans of action and referrals/home visits. Failure to improve may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued.

Giles Academy wants each and every pupil to achieve their full potential, whilst enjoying a fulfilled school life – full and regular attendance is a vital part of that process.