



6th September, 2019

Dear parents / carers

Re New Ampthill / Maulden Schools' Attendance Policy

The nine schools in our local Redborne School's Partnership (RSP), have been collaborating with the Local Authority, considering ways to further improve pupil attendance and we have worked together to agree common approaches and procedures, with regard to our policies in this area.

The FARM schools (**F**irs, **A**lameda, **R**ussell and **M**aulden) have taken these agreed approaches and procedures and created a new joint FARM Attendance Policy for the 4 FARM schools, following the Central Bedfordshire Model Policy / the procedures agreed with all the 9 RSP schools.

Both in our discussions and in the new Attendance Policy, we have taken into consideration, the fact that absence disturbs the continuity of the curriculum and can have a negative impact on children's relationships with others.

Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success in children's learning and establish positive life habits, necessary for future success. Regular attendance also encourages children to build friendships and develop social groups, working together as a whole team, sharing ideas and developing life skills.

We appreciate that family life is so important but we must balance this with the need to maximise pupil attendance and our accountability with regard to this.

The Central Bedfordshire Council model policy includes the use of 'Fixed Penalty Notices'.

In the policy therefore, it sets out that any unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or more, in any 12 week period, will result in the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice by the local authority; this will of course include any unauthorised holidays taken in term time. For more information on 'Fixed Penalty Notices', please follow this link to the Central Bedfordshire website:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school/pupil-support/non-school-attendance/about-penalty-notices.aspx>

The new policy, which is now on our school website, is effective from the issuing of this letter. Thank you in advance for your support in helping us to maximise the learning opportunities for children, by improving attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

The Firs Lower School • Station Road, Ampthill, Bedford MK45 2QR

Telephone: (01525) 402735

Email: office@firslower.org • Web www.firslower.co.uk

