



Blackwood Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon

"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."



Attendance Matters



Summer Term Newsletter '24



Welcome to our Summer Term Attendance Newsletters. The aim of the newsletter is to provide families with up-to-date information on our school attendance processes and procedures. Our aim is to positively promote attendance at school so that pupils can enjoy the very best education.

The importance of attendance continues to be a key feature in our whole school assemblies and within our year group assemblies. It is wonderful to see so many pupils receive their 100% attendance certificates at the end of the term.

Throughout the term pupils will continue to celebrate their attendance with fun and exciting learning experiences. Mr. Grandin, along with local community groups, will provide attendance-based celebration taster sessions.

Monday Family Zone sessions have been a great success, building strong relationships with families and schools. If you have been unable to attend our sessions, we will continue to offer sessions throughout the Summer Term. Keep an eye out on ParentMail for the menu!

Follow us on twitter: [Wellbeing Blackwood Primary School@WellbeingBPS](#)



Building strong links with our families supports our schools mission statement.

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Wrth Uno Mae'n Arfogi i Feithrin a Herio

We will continue to monitor pupils' attendance and implement a range of actions to improve attendance. The school and Education Welfare Officer will continue to monitor your child's attendance with a focus on pupils arriving late to

school . Our aim is to work with you to improve your child's attendance. If during a period of monitoring limited or no improvement is made, we will request a formal meeting with yourselves, the Family Liaison Office, Headteacher, and Education Welfare Officer to discuss attendance.

Breakfast Time!

Endless research supports the science that breakfast is the most important meal of the day! Often, breakfast is missed to save time in the morning, but this tactic can backfire. An empty stomach can leave children feeling fatigued and peaky!

We realise that not everyone wants to eat breakfast first thing in the morning; however, a healthy breakfast can be the perfect start to the day for you and your child. We at school, along with the local authority, recognise the importance of breakfast and work together to provide a breakfast club service at school. Please call our main office or follow the link below to find out more about this amazing service.

[Caerphilly Council Breakfast Club](#)



All pupils from reception to sixth grade have the opportunity to access the breakfast club daily. If you wish to access the breakfast club please contact the school office and a form will be sent via parentmail.

Email: blackwoodprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk



Free School Meals

The Welsh Government continues to provide free school meals to all year groups from September 2023. If you would like more information about your child's eligibility, please contact the main office or follow the links below:

[Welsh Government - Universal Primary Free School Meals](#)

[Caerphilly Council - Apply for free school meals](#)



Barriers to attending school



We understand there are occasionally issues that make it difficult for some students to attend school. We call these 'barriers'.

The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both at home and within school. The foundation of securing good attendance is that pupils feel school is a safe, secure, calm, and happy environment where they can be themselves and thrive.

Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than others. Their right to an education is the same as that of any other pupil, and therefore the attendance ambitions of these pupils are the same as they are for any other pupil. We are mindful of these barriers and work collectively with the pupil, family, and any additional supporting agencies to ensure the pupil is accessing full-time education.

Our aim is to work with pupils, parents, and carers to identify any barriers and take action to remove them, where possible. Through open, honest discussion, we can work together to improve accessibility and willingness to attend school.



IOAN: Improve our attendance now!



IOAN is a regular feature in whole school assemblies. The Pupil Leadership Team takes great pride in delivering **IOAN** to year groups following our whole school celebration assembly every Friday.

We continue to work alongside our Education Welfare Officer to support and guide us in our mission to improve school attendance. The Education Welfare Officer will continue to work with us and families to provide support and advice. We will continue to work with the EWO and local authorities to implement our school procedures and policies.



Lateness



As you may be aware, the school and EWO treat persistent lateness in the same way as irregular attendance, and parents may be prosecuted by the local authority if late arrival is not resolved.

Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Missing the beginning of vital lessons
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits could affect their employability in the future

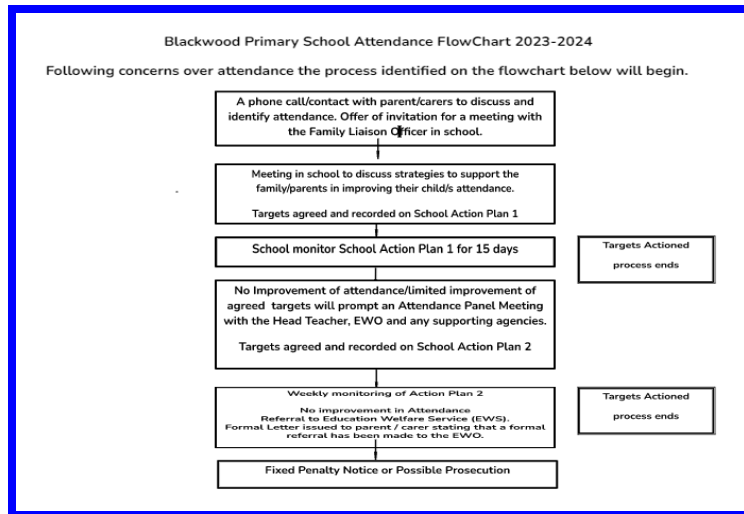
Family Liaison Officer



Jill Hiscott, our Family Liaison Officer (FLO), continues to provide an open door policy for advice, support, and guidance to all our existing and new Blackwood families.

The flowchart below displays the school's process of identifying and actioning attendance concerns. As always, our aim is to provide support and guidance in developing positive attendance habits with pupils, parents, and carers. If you would like to discuss any attendance concerns, please contact the school and make an appointment with our Family Liaison Officer.





We have no doubt that moving forward, the pupils and families of Blackwood Primary School will endeavour to support our continued effort to improve our school's attendance to ensure all pupils have access to the many opportunities that school has to offer.

Contact information

Please visit our new school website with links to our online events calendar

Website: www.blackwoodprimary.org

Twitter: @Blackwood_PS

Telephone number: 01495 224111

Email: blackwoodprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk