



8<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents,

**RE: Improving Attendance, Uniform Standards and Teaching School**

Thank you for your ongoing support for your child's education at OLSJ. You are the biggest single factor in their success.

Educational research shows that the second biggest factor in academic success is attendance. This will determine your child's future life chances. Our school performance indicators would suggest that in Ofsted terms, the only aspect not yet classed as 'Good' is attendance. We promised you that we would give your child the very best education and make OLSJ an 'Outstanding' school. We need your support to help your child.

The government target for attendance is at least 95% for each healthy child. This is the lowest attendance can be before it begins to have an impact on pupil progress as it still means one day off every four school weeks. To support your child, please try to send them into school every day, including the first and last day of term. If they are poorly, then please notify the school as usual. Our attendance team and the Local Authority officers may need to contact you to discuss support and strategies to increase their attendance.

Can I thank you for your support with our uniform. Our pupils look like grammar school students and this is important for their self-esteem and the perception of them by their future employers and the wider community. Please ensure that your child is wearing a tie, jumper and blazer each day. Formal school shoes are also to be worn. We will support any child not wearing them with a standard school pair.

Finally, I will be in touch again next half term to update you on exciting developments that will secure the very best education for OLSJ children moving forward. Our governors have agreed to enter a formal partnership with the leading school in the Diocese, St Patrick's Teaching School. This will ensure the same outstanding standards in both schools. I will remain in charge of standards at OLSJ and, thanks to our 'rapid progress' over the past 3 years, have been asked to lead both schools. I will do so with great pride that our work has been recognised.

Working together, we can give your child the very best educational outcomes. However, they can only achieve their potential if they attend school on time and in full school uniform.

Thank you for your support with attendance and high standards,

Mr P Murden  
Headteacher

