



# Alder Community High School

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Headteacher: Mr R O'Regan BSc (Hons) NPQH

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Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Amendment to School Attendance Policy – Minor Ailments

As I am sure you will agree the success of our students is a priority for us at Alder Community High School. Owing to concerns regarding the decline in student attendance at school and the detrimental impact that this has on academic achievement, I have taken the decision to **no longer authorise any absence from school for minor ailments without medical evidence**. There is a clear link between attendance and achievement and consequently a student's life chances are affected by absence from school.

For example, where young people have a headache, cold or stomach ache, we would expect that they take some appropriate pain relief and make efforts to come into school. Most minor ailments improve as the morning goes on and any student who really is not well enough to remain in school will be sent home with the consent of a parent or carer.

Medical evidence can be in the form of an appointment note from your GP practice or a prescription label showing the child's name and the date prescribed. Occasionally, we find that some students are absent from school for reasons that would not be acceptable in the workplace and we need to prepare them for life beyond school.

Once again, I would like to reiterate, that if children are not in school they cannot learn and consequently this diminishes their life chances. It is crucial that we do everything we can to encourage them to become resilient.

If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact your child's Progress Leader or Rachel Anderson, Senior Leader for Safeguarding.

Yours Sincerely

**Richard O'Regan**  
Headteacher

