

Governor Attendance Report for Full Governor's Meeting 14th July 2021.

I took over as attendance governor at the beginning of 2021, replacing Nick Brown.

National statistics on primary school absence and attendance are only as yet available for the autumn term of 2020/2021. Looking at these, our data compares favourably. The national overall absence rate was 4.7% for the autumn term. From September 2020-May 2021 St Michael's overall attendance rate was 95.66%, meaning the absence rate was 4.34%. Of these, nationally, authorized absences accounted for 3.3% for the Autumn term, unauthorized at 1.4%. St Michael's from Sept-May recorded comparable figures of 3.21% and 1.13%. SEN absence rates are near identical to the overall rate. Our FSM absence rates of 7.2% are slightly lower than the national rate of 7.4%.

Our aim as I understand it is for a standard of 96% attendance, and we seem to be close to this. However the national picture is of somewhat lower absence rates than in other years, likely to be because holidays, medical appointments and seasonal illnesses have not played their usual roles whilst primary school infection rates for COVID have remained low. We probably want to ask ourselves and our leaders: is there anything we can do to increase attendance further, especially given it is likely to fall next year when things return to 'normal'? We should also ask ourselves:

The school of course had to close from 5th January until 8th March. There have been isolated families who were reluctant to return their children to school following the re-opening, about which I heard when undertaking my attendance governor monitoring visit following re-opening. This was negotiated sensitively and the children in question all did return to school. A recommendation from this governor is that it might be worth establishing a better way of recording persistent absences in our tabulated statistics than the current recording only of 'more than one' absence.

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