



St Osmund's
CE Middle School
Hope · Community · Respect · Love

Monday 7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance Expectations

We hope your child had a joyful and restful summer break. It is a real pleasure to welcome them back to St. Osmund's. We are glad to have them with us.

At St. Osmund's we believe that every child deserves the best possible chance to thrive, and regular attendance plays a vital role in helping them achieve just that. Good attendance and punctuality remain one of the top priorities for Wessex Multi-Academy Trust and our school. Being at school every day helps children build friendships, grow in confidence and make the most of the learning opportunities whilst building the sense of belonging to our school and wider community.

We therefore share parents' and carers' views in wanting the best for your child and we look forward to working in partnership with you through the year ahead. We continue to work hard to ensure that your child is supported in school to feel safe, to be the best they can be, and to develop a sense of belonging. We recognise that on occasion children might experience illness or have exceptional reasons preventing regular attendance. We will work with you in such circumstances to ensure that any identified barriers are discussed so that we can best support your child's wellbeing and education.

As a parent it is your responsibility that your child attends school each day. However, we do understand that every child is unique, and sometimes attending school can be more challenging for some than others. Please note, that we are here to help if you are experiencing any difficulties affecting your child – please do get in touch as soon as you are able. Your child's form tutor would be your first point of contact for this.

Together, we can support your child by:

- Ensuring they arrive at school on time every day by (8:30am).
- Making sure your child attends school every day, unless there is an exceptional reason preventing this. Please contact school by to report an absence.
- Arranging dental and medical appointments outside of school hours where possible.
- Informing the school if your child is too unwell to attend. This can be done by either telephoning the school, email: absence@stosmunds.wessex.ac or by leaving a telephone message on the school

Head of School: Mr G Biddle BSc NPQH
St Osmund's CE Middle School A Church of England Academy
Barnes Way, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DZ
Tel: 01305 262897
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Website: www.stosmunds.wessex.ac

Leadership Team
Mr S Beet BA
Mr S Copping
Mrs S Farmer BA NPQSL
Mrs C Minhinick BEd NPQSL
Mrs R Golledge DSBM
Mrs L Staddon BA NPQSL NPQH



office absence line. Alternatively, you can visit our website and use the yellow 'report an absence' link on the homepage.

- To assist parents in deciding whether their child is too ill to attend school, the NHS have produced a weblink you might find useful: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-call-the-doctor/)
- Taking holidays during school holiday periods only.
- Attending parents' evenings and school events.
- Talking to us about any problems or difficulties with the school as soon as they arise – we are here to help.

Our attendance policy is available to read on our school website (<https://www.stosmunds.wessex.ac/parents/attendance>). If you need a different format or have trouble accessing it, please do let us know. The policy explains how we monitor attendance and follow up absence. If you have any questions or concerns at all please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. We truly value your partnership and look forward to working together to support your child's learning, wellbeing and future success.

Yours sincerely,



Mr G Biddle
Head of School

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