



**BIRCHFIELD INDEPENDENT GIRLS SCHOOL**

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## School Attendance – Covid Update September 2020

### A very important message for all parents/carers

14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamau'alaykum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

This is a message about school attendance.

Birchfield Independent Girls' School is working in partnership with parents and Birmingham City Council to encourage pupils back into school following several very difficult months for parents and schools. We would like to thank parents for the work you have done in ensuring your daughters have accessed their education during this period, provided by the school.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. ***School attendance is therefore compulsory again from the beginning of the autumn term.***

This means from September 2020, the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to send their child to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability of local authorities to use legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

If you are worried about your daughter attending school the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams who may also be able to help if needed.

*In addition, this is not the time to take your daughter out of school for a family holiday or other term time leave. It is unlikely that any leave will be authorised by the Head Teacher after so much enforced absence from school. The more your daughter is in school, the more she will catch up.*

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the pupil to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members.

No school or local authority wants to take legal action, and every attempt to resolve parents' concerns and improve a pupil's attendance will be made before any formal action is considered. After so much disruption to your daughter's education over recent months, the most important thing is that the school and parents work together to get pupils back into school. The school is ready to listen so please contact them if you have any worries and they will try to help you.

Kind regards,

Mrs R. Mogra  
Headteacher