

6 Hydref 2014

Annwyl Riant,

PRESENOLDEB YSGOL

Ysgrifennaf i ddiolch i chi am gefnogi ein hymdrechion i wella presenoldeb yn ysgolion **Sir Gaerfyrddin** ac i ofyn am eich cydweithrediad wrth barhau i wella presenoldeb er budd ein plant a phobl ifanc.

Mae presenoldeb yn flaenoriaeth i ni yn **Sir Gaerfyrddin** a Gwasanaeth Gwella Ysgolion y Rhanbarth - ERW, a defnyddir dull cyffredin o fynd ati i wella presenoldeb. Mae hyn yn cynnwys y penderfyniad i beidio ag awdurdodi gwyliau adeg tymor ysgol.

O edrych ar bresenoldeb yn **Sir Gaerfyrddin** ar gyfer 2013/14 rydym wedi gweld gwelliant sylweddol-

	Presenoldeb 2013/2014
Ysgolion Cynradd	95.0%

Fel y gwelwch bu gwelliant amlwg mewn presenoldeb gyda gostyngiad yn nifer y gwyliau a gymerwyd yn ystod y tymor. Diolch yn fawr am ein help i gyflawni'r canlyniad hwn.

Mae pob un ohonom yn gweithio'n galed i wella safonau a chanlyniadau ar gyfer ein plant a phobl ifanc ac yr wyf yn gwybod eich bod yn ymwybodol bod perthynas glir ac uniongyrchol rhwng presenoldeb rheolaidd yn yr ysgol a chyflawniad disgyblion. Yr ydym wedi gweld gwelliannau mewn safonau ar draws y rhanbarth eleni, a gwn fod rhywfaint o hyn yn ganlyniad i wella presenoldeb yn yr ysgol.

Er y bu gwelliant eleni mae angen i ni barhau i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn er lles ein plant a'n pobl ifanc. Er mwyn sicrhau gwelliant pellach Hoffwn eich atgoffa o'r canlynol-

- Mae Llywodraeth Cymru ac ERW yn disgwyl i bob disgybl fynychu'r ysgol o leiaf 95% o'r amser.
- Gall colli ysgol beryglu siawns y dysgwyr i gyflawni ei botensial/photensial- mae presenoldeb da yn gwella'r siawns o fod yn llwyddiannus yn yr ysgol.
- Ni fydd ysgolion yn awdurdodi gwyliau teulu neu apwyntiadau arferol yn ystod y tymor ysgol.
- Os byddwch yn cymryd eich plentyn allan o'r ysgol ar gyfer gweithgareddau nas awdurdodwyd bydd yn rhaid i ni ystyried mesurau cyfreithiol o dan y Ddeddf Addysg 1996 ac efallai y byddwch yn agored i ddirwy neu erlyniad.
- Os yw eich plentyn yn absennol am gyfnod o bedair wythnos neu fwy byddant yn cael eu tynnu oddi ar gofrestr yr ysgol. Noder na allwn warantu y bydd lle ar gael ar gyfer eich plentyn yn yr ysgol o'ch dewis wrth iddynt ddychwelyd a bydd lle yn cael ei gynnig yn yr ysgol agosaf sydd â lle gwag.
- Os ydych yn cymryd gwyliau yn ystod y tymor, neu os yw eich plentyn yn gyson hwyr gallech gael dirwy.

Hoffwn eich cefnogaeth barhaus i sicrhau fod presenoldeb eich plentyn y gorau y gall fod. Gallwch wneud hyn drwy wneud yn siŵr bod eich plentyn yn yr ysgol yn brydlon a thrwy beidio â threfnu gwyliau teuluol neu apwyntiadau arferol yn ystod amser ysgol. Fodd bynnag, os ydych yn cael trafferthion gyda phresenoldeb eich plentyn, siaradwch â'ch ysgol a all drefnu cefnogaeth i chi.

Yr wyf yn hyderus y gallwn weithio gyda'n gilydd i wella presenoldeb yn yr ysgol ymhellach a sicrhau bod ein plant yn cyrraedd eu llawn botensial.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir



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6th October 2014

Dear Parent,

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

I write to thank you for supporting our efforts to improve school attendance in **Carmarthenshire** and to ask for your cooperation in continuing to improve attendance in the interest of our children and young people. School attendance is a priority for us in **Carmarthenshire** and the ERW regional school improvement serviceⁱ and a common approach to improve school attendance is being used. This includes the decision not to authorise holidays in term time.

Having looked at school attendance in **Carmarthenshire** for 2013/14 we have seen improvement.

	2013/2014 Attendance
Primary Schools	95.0%

As you can see there has been marked improvement in school attendance with a reduction in the number of holidays taken during term time. Thank you very much for helping us achieve this result.

All of us are working hard to improve standards and outcomes for our children and young people and I know you're aware that there is a clear and direct relationship between regular school attendance and pupil achievement. We have seen improvements in standards across the region this year, and I know that some of this is due to improved school attendance.

Although there has been improvement this year we need to continue to address this issue in the interests of our children and young people. To ensure further improvement I would like to remind you of the following-

- The Welsh Government and ERW expects all pupils to attend school at least 95% of the time.
- Missing school jeopardises the learner's chances of fulfilling his/her potential as regular attendance improves the chances of being successful at school.
- Schools **will not authorise family holidays** or **routine appointments**ⁱⁱ taken during term time.
- If you take your child out of school for non-authorised activities we are obliged to consider legal measures under the 1996 Education Act and you may be subject to a fine or prosecution.
- If your child is absent for a period of four weeks or longer they will be removed from the school roll in accordance with admission guidance. Please note that we cannot guarantee that a place will be available for your child in the school of your choice on their return and a place will be offered at the nearest school with a vacancy.
- **If you take holidays during term time or your child is consistently late you could be fined.**

I would like your continued support to ensure that your child's attendance is the best it can be. You can do this by making sure your child is in school on time and by not arranging family holidays or routine appointments during term times. However, if you are having difficulties with your child's attendance, please talk to your school who can arrange support for you.

I am confident that we can work together to further improve school attendance and ensure that our children reach their full potential.

Yours sincerely



Eifion Evans
Lead Director, ERW
South West and Mid Wales Consortium

ⁱ ERW is the regional education consortium comprising Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Swansea.

ⁱⁱ By routine appointments we refer to periodic assessments such as dental check-ups, occasional optical examinations, non-urgent doctor consultations, etc, where parents/ guardians are able to influence the timing of appointments.