**Defence Children Services**

Building 183

Trenchard Lines

UPAVON

Pewsey

SN9 6BE

20/08/2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Attendance Guidance and Support.**

We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. As the new academic year for 2024/2025 commences we are writing to share with you the DCS commitment in ensuring your children gain the most out of their learning opportunities.

Being in school is crucially important to your child’s academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. The evidence shows that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to supporting children and young people's educational, economic, and social outcomes in adulthood.

Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which contributes to better mental health and wellbeing. Research shows that those students with the highest attendance throughout their school years go on to achieve their potential at GCSE. When a student is absent from school, they have missed out on a large range of opportunities your school has to offer.

Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your children have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have the opportunities in further education and the world of work. It will enable your children to have access to the lessons needed to achieve their expected grades, maintain friendships, and develop new ones whilst developing work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment.

In partnership with our families, we are launching a DCS school attendance charter, and we are requesting that our MOD families agree their commitment to this so that we are all aware of our responsibilities in relation to improving school attendance.

If you are worried about your child/children’s attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with school directly. Please do speak to your Headteacher in the first instance.

We understand this can be confusing and the Education Welfare Team is also here to support and help navigate you as a family through your child’s learning journey with all attendance related matters and can offer both formal and informal support and advice. We are a targeted service and form part of the MOD early help offer. We can be contacted on RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk.

We wish you and your child/children all the best for the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

Jane Kelly Bekki Miller

Ms Jane Kelly Ms Rebekka Miller

Education Welfare Officer (ROW) Education Welfare Officer (BFC)

DCS | Bldg 183 |Trenchard Lines Episkopi Station | BFPO 53

SN9 6BE