



**SHREWSBURY CATHEDRAL
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL and
NURSERY
Diocese of Shrewsbury**

Executive Headteacher: Mr Graeme Hawes
Head of School: Mr Paul Higgins

New Park Road
Castlefields
Shrewsbury, SY1 2SP
Telephone: 01743 351032
e-mail: admin.cathedral@blessedec.co.uk
Website: www.blessededwardcampion.co.uk

We work, we love, we learn, we pray, We spread the Gospel message everyday

22 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year, we have had the opportunity to work in partnership with an organisation called Inclusive Attendance. Through this collaboration, our staff are receiving high-quality training focused on supporting positive school attendance. Together, we aim to empower every child to attend school regularly and to address any barriers they may experience in their educational journey.

At Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School and Nursery, effective communication with our families is central to our ethos and success. In light of this, we are making a small but important change to how we share attendance information.

Rather than reporting attendance solely as a percentage, we will now focus on the number of school days missed. We believe this approach is simpler, clearer, and helps children and families better understand the real impact that missing school days can have on learning.

In schools, Persistent Absence (PA) is defined as a pupil missing **19 or more school days in an academic year**, for any reason (authorised or unauthorised). Missing this amount of school can have a significant negative impact on a child's learning, wellbeing, and future opportunities. Persistent absence may arise for a range of reasons, including health concerns, family circumstances, or emotional factors such as anxiety or school-related worries.

As part of recent guidance, schools are required to assess the likelihood of pupils becoming persistently absent and to share this information with families. This ensures that concerns are highlighted early, support can be offered where needed, and potential fines can be avoided. Our assessments are based on the number of days a pupil has been absent to date, using the following scale:

Number of Days Absent to Date — Risk Level

- **19+ days** – Already persistently absent
- **10+ days** – High risk of persistent absence
- **5–9 days** – Moderate risk of persistent absence
- **0–4 days** – Low risk of persistent absence

If you have any questions regarding this, please don't hesitate to contact school.

We look forward to continuing working closely with all of you to ensure our children get the best possible education we can offer.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Hawes

Paul Higgins

Mr G Hawes
Executive Headteacher

Mr P Higgins
Head of School



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust

