



# Bessemer Grange Primary School

[www.bessemergrange.southwark.sch.uk](http://www.bessemergrange.southwark.sch.uk)

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**Headteacher:** Ms Sarah Beard

**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead

Tuesday, 24 May 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

My name is Olive Irechukwu, I am the school based Education Welfare Officer for Bessemer Grange Primary School.

My role is to work in the school with parents and teachers to raise school attendance and improve punctuality, to support the learning of your children. My role is to support parents around their children's school attendance and punctuality where they may be struggling.

It is important for children to attend school every day and in time for registration in order for them to have the best opportunity to reach their full potential. Arriving to school punctually and in time for registration is also crucial as lateness can disrupt your child's learning and the learning of their peers. Your child being late will also put them at a disadvantage if they have missed their teacher's instructions for the activities to complete.

The school's target for attendance is **96%**; all children are expected to maintain an attendance above 96% taking illness and other circumstances into account.

Any child with attendance below 96% may be written to or invited into school to meet with me to look at the causes for the level of attendance or poor punctuality and what support can be accessed to address this. The meeting would serve to support parents around improving their child's attendance or punctuality.

Where children have attendance at 90% and below, the government define these children as Persistent Absentees. Children in this cohort would be at risk of the matter of the poor attendance being referred to the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer where they would be at risk of interventions that could result in the matter of the poor attendance being referred to magistrate court if attendance failed to improve.

I look forward to meeting with parents to help them in supporting their children's learning and fulfilling their legal requirement in ensuring their children access education regularly and punctually.

Please contact me on the above number if you wish to discuss the contents of this letter or have any other attendance concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Olive Irechukwu

School Education Welfare Officer.