



16 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance Update for the start of the Academic Year 2026 - 2027

Welcome to our first attendance update for the Academic Year 2026 - 2027! The Attendance Team have been glad to welcome back all students after the summer break.

After our INSET days, it was so good to welcome students back into the building, firstly, on the Monday with our new starters in Y7 and Y12 and then with the rest of the school on the Tuesday. The students had been missed by all staff and it was great to see them excitedly talking to each other about their summers and all they had been doing. Now Term 1 is fully underway.

Y7 are settling in well and are being looked after by their tutors and Mr Fewell (Head of Year 7), Mrs Roberts (Deputy Head of Year 7) and Mr Campbell (Learning Mentor in Year 7). Please do contact the Year 7 team via enquiries@smrt.bristol.sch.uk or call the main school number: **01173772100** if you have any concerns or your child is struggling; we want to know and we want to support them!

Making sure students feel like they belong at St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School is paramount to us and we want to develop strong relationships with you to do all we can to settle students in. We appreciate students may be very tired but having them here is key. Please send tired or anxious students into school, we will look after them. Absence in the first few days of school often becomes a pattern of absence in the future, as the Education Secretary has made clear in the past: 'more than half of pupils who missed some of the first week went on to become "persistently absent" in 2024, compared with just 14% of pupils who fully attended the first week'. If your child is already struggling with attending school, please mention this at the Meet the Tutor event and/or arrange a meeting with the appropriate Year Team so we can work together to provide the right support for your child to encourage them in.

As part of ensuring students are given the best opportunity to succeed at school, we need to make clear that we do not authorise term-time holidays as part of schools' normal approach to absences. We appreciate that holidays are a lot cheaper outside of term-time, but this has a huge impact on the learning of students and their wellbeing as they try to catch up with missed lessons. If you require leave for 'exceptional circumstances' then please read and complete the Leave of Absence Letter and Request Form on the Attendance page of the school website: [St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School - Attendance](#)

Last year we invested in a new system of reporting absences for parents and carers. Studybugs is an app that can be downloaded to report any whole day absences e.g. illness. This is the quickest and easiest method for you to report an absence and the letter attached explains more detail and gives a quick QR code for you to get it on your phone. If there are medical appointments or part days a student will need to miss school, please call or email the attendance team at: attendance@smrt.bristol.sch.uk or call on: **0117 3532069** rather than using the study bugs app. Please ensure you leave the student's full name and try to make any appointments outside of school time, where possible.

If you are not aware, we have a clear approach when addressing lates at St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School. If students are very late, after registers close at 9am (that's 30 minutes after school starts) on 10 occasions or more (known as U codes), these will generate a Penalty Notice. We appreciate that with roadworks, bus strikes and unforeseen circumstances, there will be times that your child is late to school but we need to ensure that students have a clear understanding, and they understand the expectations for them to be in school on time. We will let you know where there are a series of U codes, alongside our daily U code notifications that are sent out, so that you can take action and address this with your child. You may be surprised that students can be regularly late after 9am, but there are some students who choose to visit local shops and cafes rather than come in to school on time.

We hope that all students are able to settle back into school quickly and that they know that, for us as a staff body, they are the reason we choose to teach and support young people. Each day brings smiles to the faces of our staff as we watch young people learn, develop and grow. We remain committed to continue building strong relationships with you and your children, through the setting of safe boundaries, and ensuring that their learning is empowered and inspiring as they work hard to excel in their education and make their own unique contribution to the community and the wider world.

Take care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Pike', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Pike
Assistant Headteacher: Safeguarding, Attendance and Belonging.