



# Hoole Church of England Primary School

## Attendance Newsletter – May 2022

### Our New Attendance, Safeguarding & Engagement Officer – Colette Williams

You know that we are always seeking ways to strengthen and improve our school. I am delighted to welcome Colette Williamson to our school family in the role of Attendance, Safeguarding & Engagement Officer.



### A Greeting from Colette Williamson

Hello, Hoole school family! I am pleased to have joined our school and I am really enjoying getting to grips with my new role. Prior to joining Hoole, I was the Education Welfare Officer for Cheshire West & Chester Council. I relocated to the area from Surrey in 2018. I was employed as Education Welfare Officer for 10 years at Surrey County Council before moving into this area. I worked in mainstream and also specialised in Special Educational Needs Schools supporting pupils, parents and schools.

I am passionate about supporting school attendance. I have experience of leading intervention planning meetings and programmes to improve attendance. As an experienced Education Welfare Officer, I have conducted home visits and worked closely with families and agencies such as Social Care and health professionals to ensure that children attend school and get the most out of their educational opportunities. My understanding of the legal process for supporting positive attendance and my experience in working with families will ensure that we are able to offer strong support for all of our pupils to let their lights shine brightly in school every day.

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### Persistent Absenteeism – Attendance below 90%

Nationally, children with attendance percentages below 90% are considered to be persistent absentees. Schools are duty bound to take action to support families where attendance is below 90% to try to improve this rapidly.

At our school, we monitor children's attendance very carefully on a frequent basis. Where your child's attendance is below 95%, we monitor attendance even more carefully to ensure that your child is not in danger of falling below 90% to avoid persistent absenteeism.

Where attendance is a cause for concern, we will contact parents/carers to attend school to meet with us to plan actions to ensure that your child maintains a positive record of attendance.

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I wrote to families recently as I had noticed an increase in pupils arriving at school after the gates have closed. School starts at 8.45am when registers are taken. We open the gates at 8.35am to allow children time to engage with their friends as research shows that this helps pupils to settle into learning and the school day efficiently. Learning starts at 8.45am. Please ensure your child arrives on time and is settled for the start of their day. Thanks for your cooperation with this.