



Tuesday, 6th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Attendance Matters: “Be Here, Be Ready, Be Your BEST!”

At Risedale School, we want every pupil to succeed. Did you know that missing just **two days a month** means a pupil misses **10% of the school year**?

We are asking for your help to ensure your child is in school and on time every day.

Our current whole school attendance is **88.5%**, which is well below the national average. We need to improve this, and your support is crucial. Currently, the lowest attendance is in Year 8 (88.6%) and in Year 11 (83.3%). Year 11 pupils have PPE examinations this month, and these exams are crucial for staff to be able to close gaps before the main GCSEs start. We are going to launch the **‘1% Better’ strategy** with Year 8 and Year 11 pupils. There will be rewards such as non-uniform days and raffles for pupils who achieve this.

### Why Every Day Matters

It might seem like missing just one or two days a month isn't a big deal, but those hours add up quickly. Research shows that:

- **Learning is Cumulative:** Lessons build on top of each other. Missing a day can leave a child feeling "lost" when they return, which can lead to frustration and a loss of confidence.
- **Social Connections:** School is where children learn to navigate friendships and teamwork. Regular attendance helps them feel like a valued part of their peer group.
- **Life Habits:** Showing up on time and being present builds the work ethic, reliability and resilience that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

At Risedale, Friday is the worst-attended day of the week. Your support in trying to improve this is needed.

### Our Shared Commitment

We understand that life happens. Illnesses, family emergencies, and unavoidable appointments occur. However, we are asking for your support in making school the **top priority** whenever possible.

#### How you can support your child:

- Establish a consistent bedtime and morning routine.
- Try to schedule non-urgent medical appointments outside of school hours.





- Talk to your child about why school is important and what they are looking forward to each day.
- Reach out to us early if there are barriers (like anxiety) preventing your child from coming to school.

**Monitoring Progress:** Form Tutors will be issuing weekly attendance figures for pupils to record in their planners. As a school, we will be discussing attendance more both in tutor time and in assemblies. We will also be updating you more regularly about your child's attendance this term. Some families will be receiving a letter in the next couple of weeks, where there are concerns about their child's attendance. We want to reassure you that this is not intended to cause offence, and that it is commonplace for schools to send these letters out where a young person's attendance is at risk of impacting negatively on their learning. The wording is based on Local Authority guidelines. It is important for families to respond positively and try to ensure that their child does not miss any further learning wherever possible if they receive an attendance letter.

Our new attendance team will be meeting fortnightly to support families more closely.

## Rewards

We will be rewarding 100% attendance and improved attendance over the next few weeks. We have year group raffles planned, one-off spontaneous rewards and non-uniform days planned for those pupils who achieve 100% attendance. We have also planned a **reward trip to the cinema in Catterick on Friday, 13th February**. Tickets will be free for this trip, and we want to take as many pupils as we can to celebrate good attendance.

## We Are Here to Help

If you are struggling to get your child to school, please don't feel you have to handle it alone. Whether it's a health concern or a social issue, we want to work with you to find a solution.

**Your child's desk is waiting for them.** When they are here, our school family is complete. When they are absent, they are missed—not just by their teachers, but by their classmates too.

**Let's make it a great year by following our new attendance motto:**

**💪 Be Here 💪 Be Ready 💪 Be Your BEST!!!**

Thank you for your continued partnership and for all you do to support your child's education.

Kindest regards,

**Mrs S Cox**

Senior Teacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Attendance Lead.

