

Jenna Oates

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Principal Teacher of  
Attendance

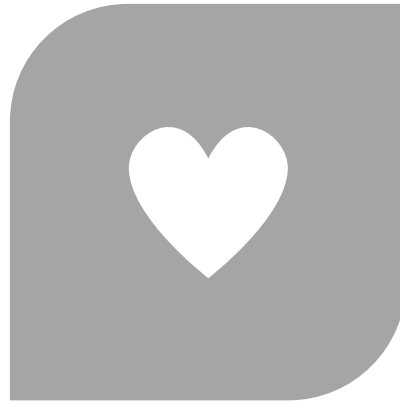


# Why Attendance Matters?

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ACADEMIC IMPACT



SOCIAL AND  
EMOTIONAL BENEFITS



FUTURE  
OPPORTUNITIES

# Academic Impact

- Key priority within Scottish Education
- Identified as an attainment gap barrier and an issue from COVID recovery (Scottish Government, 2021)
- A clear link between attainment and attendance has been proven (Klein & Sosu, 2023; John et al. 2021). This is absence due to any reason.
- This is true at Queen Margaret Academy. Pupil who have better attendance are more likely to achieve 5@5 and 5@6.

Attendance  
vs  
Attainment  
2023-24


<b>N5 Attainment</b>	<b>Average Attendance (%)</b>
5@5	90%
4@5	86%
3@5	84%
2@5	81%
1@5	80%

<b>Higher Attainment</b>	<b>Average Attendance (%)</b>
5@6	94%
4@6	89%
3@6	86%
2@6	85%
1@6	84%





## Social and Emotional Benefits

- When pupils are not present, they miss many supports and interactions:
    - Learning and teaching
    - Interactions with peers and staff
    - Building and maintenance of friendships
    - Extra-curricular clubs
    - Targeted interventions
    - Counselling sessions
    - Mentoring support
    - Wellbeing activities
    - Personal, Social & Health Education
- 



# Future Opportunities

- If a pupil is absent, then this can hinder them reaching a positive destination:
  - SDS interviews
  - DYW Inputs (mock interview, application/CV writing, personal statement writing, pathway events, careers fairs etc.)
  - Skills throughout the curriculum
  - Report of low attendance to employer, College or University

# Supporting Attendance



SHARED VISION



COMMUNITY



SCHOOL SYSTEMS

# Shared Vision

There are 190 days  
in a school year

The average  
attendance in  
Scotland last year  
was 87.7%

This means that the  
average pupil  
missed 24 school  
days



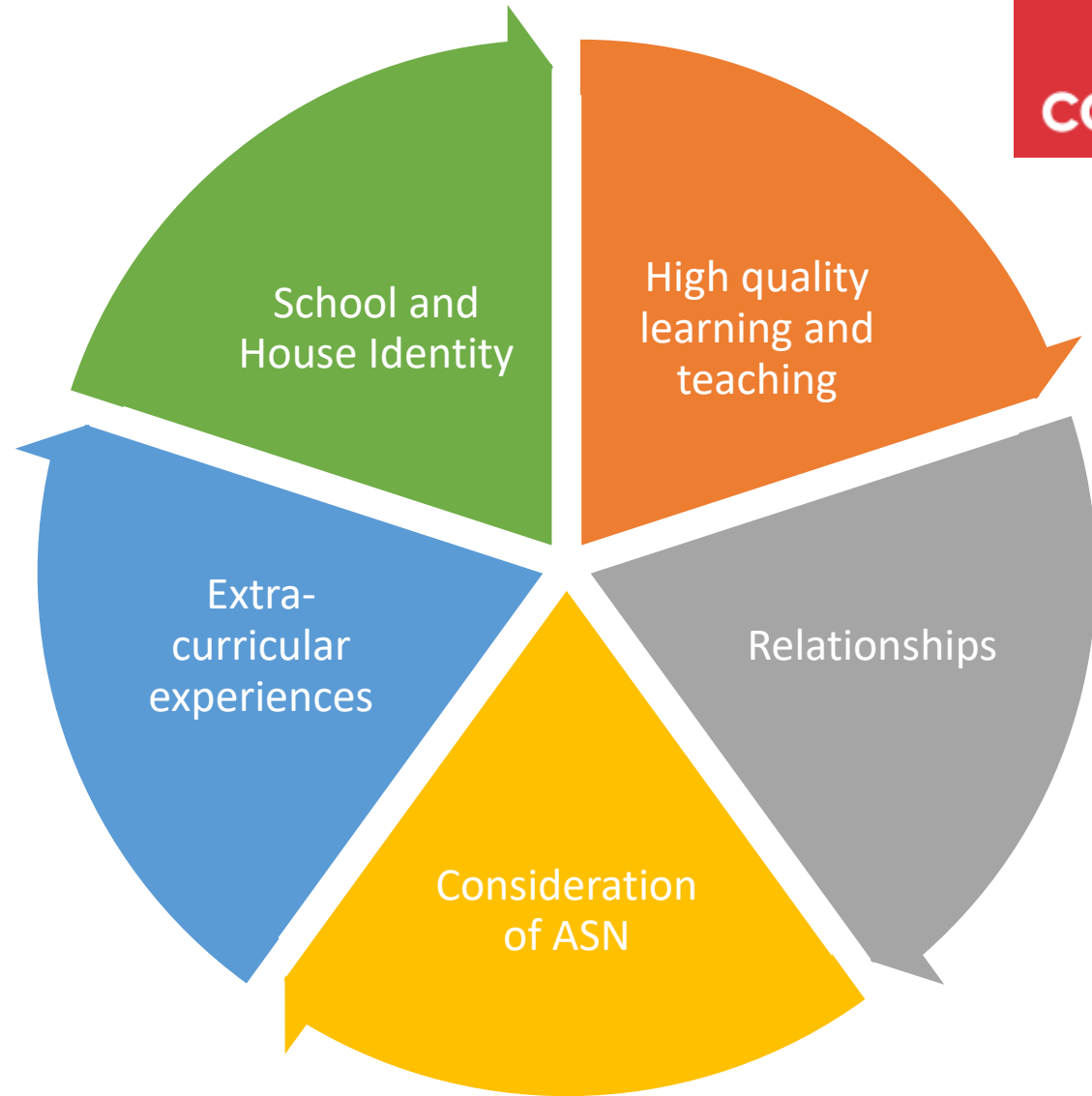
# Shared Vision

- To improve this, we need to work together
- Pupils need to understand that all stakeholders believe their attendance is important
- When a pupil is absent for 1 day, this can make them feel they are falling behind and lead to more absences.
- Research shows, across Scotland, if a young person misses the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day of a new term the average attendance of these pupils is 45% for the rest of the term

## Did you know?!

During COVID schools were closed for 54 days.  
This is the same as 75% attendance. Some  
pupils are missing more school now even  
though we are open.

# Community



- Community is one of our 6 values at Queen Margaret Academy
- This value plays a key role in attendance
- We build a sense of belonging by:

# School Systems



Tier 1 – absence letters, phone calls from Guidance Teacher or Year Head



Tier 2 – Team with the Family meeting would occur (create a plan that all agree upon to overcome non-attendance)



Tier 3 – Further interventions and alternative educational provisions

# Call to Action

- Clear link between attendance and attainment
- Attendance plays a key role in your child's physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Each day makes a difference in your child's learning
- We all must work together to be successful



# Questions?

Follow our social media campaign on the  
importance of attendance every Sunday  
evening

