



Message from the Principal – Summer 1

As we come to the end of the half term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the many successes across our school. It has been wonderful to see pupils demonstrating such positive learning behaviours in lessons, around the academy and our year 6 pupils attitude during their SATs. Many children are showing increasing determination, resilience and pride in their work—this is something we are incredibly proud of.

Our curriculum continues to come to life through a range of exciting opportunities. Pupils across the school have taken part in memorable trips and enrichment experiences, helping to bring their learning beyond the classroom and deepen their understanding. These experiences not only support academic progress but also build confidence, independence and curiosity about the wider world.

DREAM Expectations

Our **DREAM expectations** remain at the heart of everything we do:

- **Determined risk takers**
- **Resilient and respectful learners**
- **Expressive communicators**
- **Ambitious achievers, unafraid of mistakes**
- **Magic happens when we dream**

We are continuing to work closely with pupils to ensure these values are consistently demonstrated by everyone. We ask for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations, particularly around respect. A calm, safe and respectful environment allows all pupils and staff to thrive.

Social Media

We are increasingly concerned about the number of pupils accessing social media platforms and online content that are not age appropriate. This is beginning to impact friendships and behaviour in school, with fallouts and disagreements being brought into the classroom.

We ask all parents and carers to:

- Monitor your child's access to social media and online platforms

- Ensure that any apps or sites used are age-appropriate
- Have regular conversations with your child about online behaviour and kindness

By working together, we can help protect pupils and ensure that their interactions—both online and in school—are respectful and positive.

Uniform

We are proud of our school community and expect all pupils to wear the correct uniform each day. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please speak to your child's class teacher—we are here to support and will always work with families to find a solution.

Attendance

Attendance remains a key priority for our school. Currently, our whole school attendance is **92.54%**, which is below the national average of **94.85%**.

While this difference may seem small, it has a significant impact over the course of a school year:

- An attendance rate of **92.54%** means a child is missing approximately **14 days of learning** across the year
- National attendance averages equate to around **9–10 days missed**

This means some of our pupils are missing **almost an extra week of learning** compared to others nationally.

We are also concerned about our level of **persistent absence**, which is currently **20.1%**, above the national figure of **13.8%**. A pupil is classed as *persistently absent* if their attendance falls below **90%**, which is the equivalent of missing **around one day every two weeks, or 19 days of school across the year**.

At Ashwood Spencer Academy, our lessons are carefully planned to be **sequential**, meaning each lesson builds on prior learning. When pupils are absent:

- They miss key knowledge that underpins future lessons
- Gaps in learning make it harder to understand new concepts
- Confidence can decrease as pupils try to catch up
- Friendships and sense of belonging can also be affected

Over time, this has a significant impact on both academic progress and wellbeing.

We understand that there can be genuine challenges around attendance, and we are here to support. If your child is experiencing difficulties, please speak to us so we can work together to find a solution.

Everyday matters—being in school, on time, every day gives children the very best chance to succeed.

INSET Days 2026–2027

Please make a note of our upcoming INSET days for the next academic year:

- **Friday 4th September 2026**
- **Monday 4th January 2027**
- **Friday 12th February 2027**
- **Friday 9th July 2027**
- **Monday 26th July 2027**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together and keeping our expectations high, we can ensure every child continues to succeed and flourish.

“Working together to believe and achieve.”

Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers
Principal