



Castle Hill School

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# **Monthly Attendance Report**

## **2019-2020**

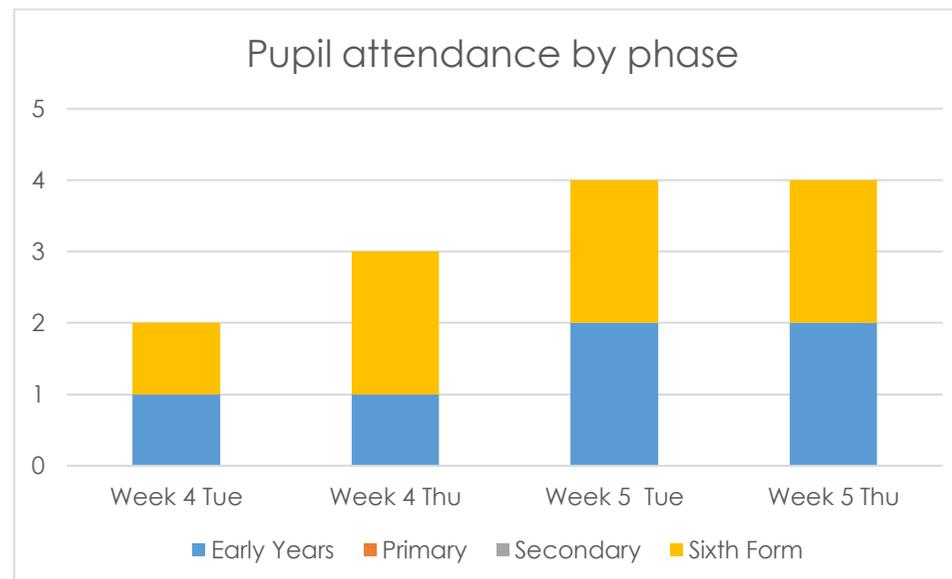
### **May**

## Castle Hill School's response to the Corona Virus/COVID-19

During March 2020, the Government moved its response to the spread of the Corona Virus from 'contain' to 'delay'. This involved the temporary closure of schools, including Castle Hill School. The last day that pupils could attend was Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The school remained closed for the entirety of April. As time went on there was changing guidance for schools where there were vulnerable pupils. This included all pupils at Castle Hill School. Although mindful that our pupils are amongst the most vulnerable, due to health needs and inability to understand social distancing, we are also aware of the difficulties that lockdown has had on some of our families. With that in mind, we began to negotiate a phased, measured, and child-centred approach to reintroducing some of our pupils back to school.

Towards reintroduction we carried out a risk assessment with all families which included their perception of how they were coping, which along with teacher conversations and medical advice, allowed us to identify a group of pupils who could return to school over time. The aim is to steadily increase this number through identifying need and assessing pupil safety. It should be noted that not all families who wished for their child to return could be accommodated due to medical vulnerabilities or associated risk.

The offer to families is of a reduced timetable to enable effective social distancing whilst also being mindful of different vulnerabilities within our cohort. Pupils were reintroduced on Tuesday and Thursdays for weeks 4 and 5 of the Summer term (the weeks beginning 11/05/20 and 18/05/20). This initial group was considered either to be in families with the greatest need, or some of the least vulnerable within our cohort. As time progresses, this group will expand and there will be opportunities for other groups to return on Mondays and Wednesdays.



During the pupils' absence from school, class teachers are in constant communication with each family, calling three times a week and offering wellbeing and educational support. Work has also been sent home, further resources are emailed, and parents are encouraged to access the 'Home Learning' section of the school website and through our new YouTube channel. Where families require further support, the Senior Leadership Team and the Family Liaison Officer offer advice and guidance, and signpost families to other relevant supportive groups and care systems.