



*Equity, Excellence, Evolution*

*The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy,  
serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Tresco.  
It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.*

Thursday 29th January 2026

### **Attendance: Update**

Dear Parents and Carers

This is a short note to all our families as a follow up to my longer letter in December about our Trust attendance processes. You can find this detailed information on our website here:

<https://fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk/attendance-the-why-and-the-how/>.

Attendance this term has met with some unexpected barriers, including Storm Goretti and the continuing high winds over the past few weeks! I'd like to reiterate a big thank you to parents for your patience and support with the tricky decision-making we have had to make around school closures and boating cancellations. We have really appreciated the positive feedback on our communications, and are aware of the impact of these disruptions on your family lives. Your children have been impressively resilient and have kept up well with any learning interruptions.

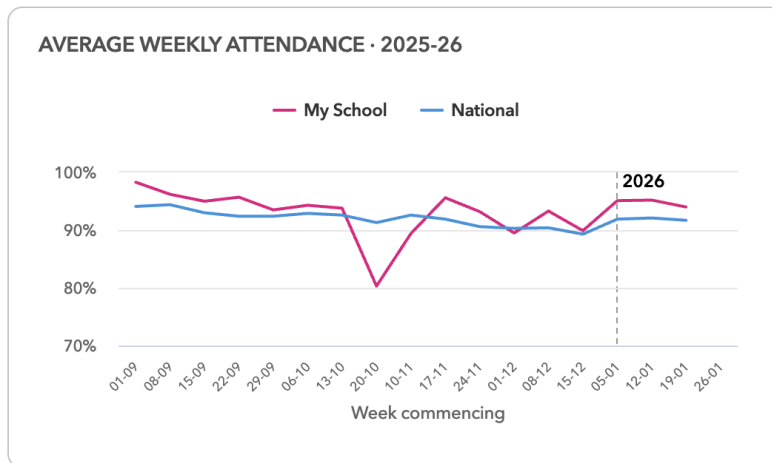
In our recent meetings with the Education Welfare Officer from our Trust, we have identified a number of children with a series of 'broken weeks'. This means that they have missed time from school on and off over a period of time. This may just be due to winter colds or mainland appointments, but it could be a sign that they are finding coming to school difficult.

In line with our Trust policy, Florence, our Attendance Officer, will be sending out a Tier 1 letter to parents of children with more than three 'broken weeks'. I wanted to write in advance of these letters being sent out to reassure you of the positive intention behind these communications (though they may sound a bit formal due to the need to reference government guidance). The letters are an initial wellbeing check for your child, and will offer a meeting with your child's teacher or tutor to talk about whether there is anything we can put in place to help. Please don't worry if you receive a Tier 1 letter, but do take us up on the offer of support if that would be helpful.

I'm delighted to say that our attendance figures for this academic year so far are above the national average overall, despite these barriers. You can see the only significant dip was the week before the October half term.

***All aboard! Navigating together***

[www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk](http://www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk)



(Fisher Family Trust Attendance Data January 2026)

We hope that our continuing efforts around clear, compassionate communication reassure you that our attendance processes are never intended as critical or personal, but are shaped by our statutory duty and commitment to help every child thrive in terms of wellbeing, academic and social development at school.

With best wishes  
 Rachel Lewin  
 Interim Headteacher  
 Five Islands Academy

