



Mercia School

Elite Performance Policy 2018-19

Policy Background:

The *Elite Performance Policy* is a whole school policy and applies to all pupils who are eligible under the guidelines stated below. Care and consideration will be given to all applications received.

The school acknowledges its duty to support pupils in fulfilling their individual talent, we believe exceptional individuals should be nurtured to ensure they reach their potential.

Please note that the Headteacher's decision on individual applications is final. An appeal may be heard by the school's Chair of Governors and ultimately by the CEO of Mercia Learning Trust.

Please note all exemptions are subject to review, at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Rationale:

The school will consider an exemption from school attendance for pupils participating in *Elite Sports* or *Elite Arts* events and scheduled training/rehearsal for periods; determined by the Headteacher on a case-by-case basis. This will be in keeping with our academically challenging approach to learning and uncompromising expectation that all pupils fully participate in the ways and means of Mercia School. The school is absolutely clear that it must support its pupils in achieving exceptional levels of performance in sport and the arts outside of school, however, pupils are expected to be fully immersed in school enrichment as far as is possible.

For the Purposes of this Policy Document:

Eligible *Elite Sports* programs include: regional, national and international sports organisations which run coaching for athletes and national sports squads- in which pupils have been selected to participate.

Eligible *Elite Arts* is defined as an opportunity for a pupil to participate in an event or program that is beyond the gifted and talented opportunities that Mercia School offers. For example, this might relate to a regional, national or international musical/dramatic/artistic organisation.



Eligibility:

Elite Sports

You are considered to be an elite athlete if you are:

1. Regularly competing in national level competition;
2. Performing in accredited coaching programs at regional, national or international level;
3. Recognized as being in the top 10% of your discipline in the region, the country or internationally as identified by the discipline's governing body.

Elite Arts

You are considered to be an elite artist if you are:

1. Regularly competing in national level competitions;
2. Participating in accredited programs at regional, national or international level;
3. Performing with a professional theatre company, orchestra or equivalent.

Applying for Elite Performance Exemption:

The school will only consider attendance exemptions once it has received the following:

1. A supporting letter from an accredited individual (e.g. a coach, musical director) or an approved governing body outlining the child's aptitude in the relevant discipline;
2. A letter from a parent/carer outlining the duration of absence and any supporting evidence they feel supports their child's application for an attendance exemption.

Applications will not be approved if:

1. A pupil's attendance falls below 99%;
2. The school believes the student is under-performing academically;
3. A pupil is not fulfilling Mercia School expectations.