



School Attendance Matters

Information for families

Punctual and regular school attendance is an essential requirement for successful learning from the time a child starts school. Family holiday in term time will not be authorised.

To Learn:

- It is never too early to learn good habits, school is training for life.
- Every absence leads to a break in learning.
- Schools do not have 'empty' days and missed work cannot always be caught up.

To be safe:

- A persistent absentee is a pupil whose attendance is 90% or less. This equates to missing 1 day of school per fortnight.
- Persistent absence can put students at risk of harm.
- Persistent absence is statistically proven to affect a student's future life chances.

To prepare for the world of work and lifelong learning:

- It is vital that good punctuality and attendance patterns are established from an early age. Your child's attendance records are passed on through all their schools and to prospective employers/colleges.

To enjoy education:

Good attendance means that your child:

- Meets other people;
- Makes and keeps friends;
- Learns social skills.

Punctuality is a good thing!

Being on time:

- Gets the day off to a good start with everyone in a positive frame of mind.
- Sets positive patterns for the future.
- Helps children to develop a sense of responsibility both to themselves and others.
- Leads to success and self-confidence.

Arriving at school 10 minutes late every day for a week results in 50 minutes of missed learning. If repeated over the year, this results in almost 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks missed education.

Arriving late causes embarrassment and anxiety for pupils. Think about how you would feel if you had to walk into a room full of people and all eyes turned to look at you? Arriving a few minutes late **DOES** affect your child's chance to learn!

The Law:

The Education Act 1996 requires parents to ensure their children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education.

The law says that parents/carers whose children of compulsory school age are absent from school without good reason are committing an offence.

Unauthorised absence includes:

- Arriving after the register has closed;
- All day dental/medical appointments;
- Birthdays;
- Shopping - even for school clothes;
- Extended family holidays;
- Looking after sick relatives or younger children.

Although you may provide a reason for absence, the school will decide if the absence is recorded as authorised or unauthorised.

The Consequences

- Your child misses out on the education they are legally entitled to.
- In many schools, parents who are seen to fail in their duty can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Practicalities:

- You need to make attendance a priority.
- It is a parent's responsibility to contact the school to report any absence. Upon your child's return, it is also good practice to send an email or note to explain the reason for absence.
- Your child should return to school as soon as he/she is able to do so.
- If you fear your child has not attended school, telephone the school so a check can be made.
- If you have **ANY** concerns about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Holidays:

In total, there are 175 non-school days a years.

This gives families the opportunity to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits and days out
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Attend routine appointments

Authorisation for family holidays in term time is only given if there are very exceptional circumstances. It is important that you ask the school before you book a holiday.

Did you know?

If your child attends school **100%** they will be able to make the best of all the opportunities available to them.

Children who attend above 90% are more likely to gain 5 or more A-C GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

If your child has **90%** attendance over the whole 11 years at school they will have missed over one year's education!

91.1% attendance = missing 17 days of school in one year.

Missing 17 days a year also means dropping 1 GCSE grade (on average)

Children with less than **85%** attendance are unlikely to gain 5 A-C GCSEs or any qualifications.

82.1% attendance = missing 34 days of school in one year

If your child has **80%** attendance over the whole 11 years at school they will miss over **TWO** years education!

Poor attendance like this will have a serious impact on education and life chances.

Please remember - schools can only teach those who attend!