

Your Child's Attendance

A Guide for Parents



Why is good attendance important?

The law states that all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must be in full-time education.

Research shows that pupils with higher levels of school attendance are more likely to benefit from education, achieve better examination results both at primary and secondary school levels and go on to have more successful careers. Similarly, irregular or poor attendance at school can lead to pupils underachieving and underperforming and therefore have a detrimental effect upon their life chances.

What is good attendance?

Good attendance is extremely important but children are bound to have some time off due to illness or unavoidable medical appointments. Though a goal of 100% attendance is to be aimed for, we would consider attendance of 97% or higher to be good.

Absences can easily build up over a term. A few days illness can quickly accumulate over a term and if this rate continues, the result is a lot of school missed and potentially serious gaps in learning.

If children miss a few days every term, the time away from school quickly builds up over time:

If a child is absent for 3 days in every term ...	they will have missed 2 weeks of school in every school year...	and a whole term (nearly 15 weeks) missed in their Primary experience.
If a child is absent for 7 days in every term ...	they will have missed 4 weeks of school in every school year...	and 2 whole terms (nearly 29 weeks) missed in their Primary experience.
If a child is absent for 10 days in every term ...	they will have missed 6 weeks of school in every school year...	and over a whole school year missed from their Primary experience.

Promoting good attendance

To help promote the goal of high attendance, 100% attendance certificates are presented to children at the end of each term and an overall 100% attendance certificate for the whole year is presented at the end of the academic year.

Whilst there will always be hard working, motivated children who do not achieve a certificate because of illness or other circumstances which are not their fault, the commitment of the children who have achieved the highest attendance should still be celebrated.

Are there consequences for parents for poor attendance?

Whilst it is always our approach to try to work in partnership with families to solve problems together, it should be noted that Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 requires all parents (and carers) of a child of compulsory school age who is registered at a school to ensure that the child attends that school regularly and punctually.

There may be unavoidable reasons why a child may be absent from school, such as sickness, to attend a medical appointment or to visit a secondary school for transfer. Where we receive notification of this, we will code this absence as authorised in our records.

Any absence that cannot be accounted for, i.e. no reason has been given or the child is absent without permission, will be coded as unauthorised.

How does the school track my child's attendance?

At the end of every half-term, the headteacher looks at every child's attendance. If their attendance falls below 90%, the reasons for the absence will be examined and their parents are sent this leaflet.