

Why is it important to attend school?

Our aim is to ensure that children leave school having achieved their full potential and are; successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. In order to achieve this it is vital that children attend school. Below are some of the key reasons to attend school.

- To learn
- To have fun and make new friends
- To understand responsibility
- To experience new things in life
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religions, ethnicity and gender difference
- To achieve
- To gain qualifications
- To develop new skills
- To build confidence and self-esteem
- To grow as individuals.

When is it acceptable for my child to be off school?

We understand that there are some circumstances that arise that prevent your child from coming to school. Your child can be off school if:

- They are ill.
- They are attending a doctor or hospital appointment.
- They are going to a meeting about a Children's Hearing or court, or if they are going to a Children's Hearing, care review or court.
- If they are involved in an activity and the school agrees in advance.
- Someone close to your child has died.
- There is a crisis or serious difficulty at home or in your family.
- They are going to a religious ceremony or a wedding of someone very close to them.
- You are a Gypsy/Traveller family and while you go travelling you keep in touch with your child's teacher.
- Your family is returning to a country of origin for cultural reasons or to care for a relative.

As long as you have informed the school of the reason why your child is off, and the school is satisfied that this is a valid reason, these would be called authorised absences.

Every Day Counts

100% Attendance	0 days of absence	Excellent	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off the a flying start
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory	
90% Attendance	19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor	Less chance of success and make it harder to progress
85% Attendance	27 days of absence 5 weeks and 2 days of learning missed – almost half a term	Very Poor	Serious implications on learning and progress
80% Attendance	36 days of absence 7 weeks and 1 day of learning missed – half a term	Unacceptable	
75% Attendance	45 days of absence 9 weeks of learning missed – almost 1 term missed	Unacceptable	

What should I do if my child is anxious or worried about going to school?

We believe your child has a right to an education and to be safe and happy at school. But sometimes children and young people can be anxious or worried about going to school for various reasons such as having a worry about their learning or friendships.

Sometimes parents let their child stay off school under these circumstances. Unfortunately this will not help find a solution. It's important to talk to the school if this kind of problem happens.

You should contact a member of staff at the school with any worry your child has which is affecting them getting to school.

Effects of low attendance

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn.

Teacher effectiveness is the strongest school-related determinant of student success, but chronic student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance.

Research shows that:

- Regular absence leads to underachievement because absence breaks the continuity of learning and pupils miss important work.
- On returning to school, poor attenders can often suffer a loss of confidence due to the fact that they are unable to understand the work.
- Children who are regularly absent can suffer from a lack of motivation
- Regular absence can affect children's enjoyment of learning
- Having regular days off can affect children's desire to attend school regularly
- Pupils who are often absent can have trouble making and keeping friends.
- Absence means they miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences

What can you do?

- Take holiday outside school term dates
- Try to make non-emergency appointments out of school hours
- Ensure you have a good bedtime and morning routine in place
- Inform school of all absences as soon as possible

Attendance and why it makes a difference to your child's learning



We want the best for your child