

How can parents help?

Parents must model the value of education including the importance of regular education.

- Arrange family trips, activities and holidays during the school holidays so that children miss as little school as possible.
- Schedule doctor and dental appointments in hours either prior to school or after school. If an appointment in school hours cannot be avoided, ensure your child is in school for as much of the school day as possible.
- Establish good routines at home, including good sleep, patterns.
- Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of missing school.
- Take interest in your child's school work and be actively involved in the school.
- Ensure healthy habits at home to decrease the likelihood of illness. Make sure children are eating nutritious meals and drinking plenty of water plus encourage good hand washing procedures.
- Contact school if attendance is becoming a problem - we can work in partnership to improve this.

Statistics

- One day of missed school is equal to as many as three days of catch up for a child to learn all the missed information and skills.
- Persistent non-attenders (attendance score lower than 90%) on average score 15-20% lower on assessments than pupils who attend school more regularly.
(BERC consortium at John's Hopkins 2009 Study)
- The earlier a pupil begins to have attendance problems, the greater the impact on achievement.
- School starts at 8:55am. Poor punctuality at school has a negative impact on learning.
 - 5 minutes late each day**
= More than 3 days of school missed
 - 10 minutes late each day**
= Almost 7 days of school missed
- Children with poor attendance rates, missing 10 days or more, gain fewer literacy skills than their peers with good attendance rates.
 - Any absence including illness, medical appointments, term time leave, punctuality and unauthorised absence will affect your child's attendance rate.**
 - 90% = 19 days of lost learning each academic year.**



Why is school attendance so important?

Excellent	<p>Your child's attendance is 100%</p> <p>As well as being an excellent attender your child will almost certainly achieve the best outcomes for their ability and in later life. They will have real opportunity in further education or the world of work.</p>
Good	<p>Your child's attendance is 98% - 99%</p> <p>Your child's attendance is good and they are likely to achieve their targets. This will give them the skills they need for the next phase of their education.</p>
Expected	<p>Your child's attendance is as expected at 97% and has reached the school's target which is set to ensure that learning is supported.</p>
Needs to Improve	<p>Your child's attendance is 93% - 96%.</p> <p>Your child's attendance is in need of improvement. It is below the school target of 97%. Your child is missing learning and in danger of falling behind.</p>
Poor and Causing Serious Concern	<p>Your child's attendance is 91%-92%</p> <p>Your child's attendance is poor and causing concern. They are in danger of becoming persistently absent and are missing a significant amount of learning. You may receive a letter to advise of a period of monitoring. And asking for your support in this matter. Your child is missing so much time from school that it will be difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons and learning.</p>
Very Poor and Causing Serious Concern	<p>Your child's attendance is 90% or below and regarded as persistently absent. This is very poor attendance and of great concern. There is a danger of Local Authority action eg a fixed penalty fine or further legal prosecution if your child's attendance does not improve.</p> <p>Your child is missing so much time from school that it will be exceptionally difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons and learning.</p>

Why is it important to attend school every day?

- Research has proven a high correlation between regular school attendance and successful academic performance.
- Absence from school is the greatest cause of poor academic achievement.
- Learning is progressive. Children who miss school, miss out on carefully planned sequences of instructions. Each day's lessons build on the previous days.
- Lessons, discussions, learning activities and social interactions cannot be made up.
- Regular school attendance encourages the development of social and emotional skills that are essential for life.
- Absenteeism affects all children in the class. Pupils who are absent require more of the teacher's time and attention, which takes away from others in the class.

There are 175 non-school days a year for holidays, shopping and appointments.