

Don't let your child miss out

Attendance and Punctuality –
A guide for Parents and Carers



It is your responsibility as a parent / carer to ensure your child attends school.

Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please contact the school to inform them. If your child has missed a lot of school through illness you may be asked to provide medical evidence.

- You can be fined up to £2,500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure that your child attends school regularly.
- If your child consistently fails to attend school, they will be twice as likely to criminally offend than pupils with regular attendance (Youth Justice Board).

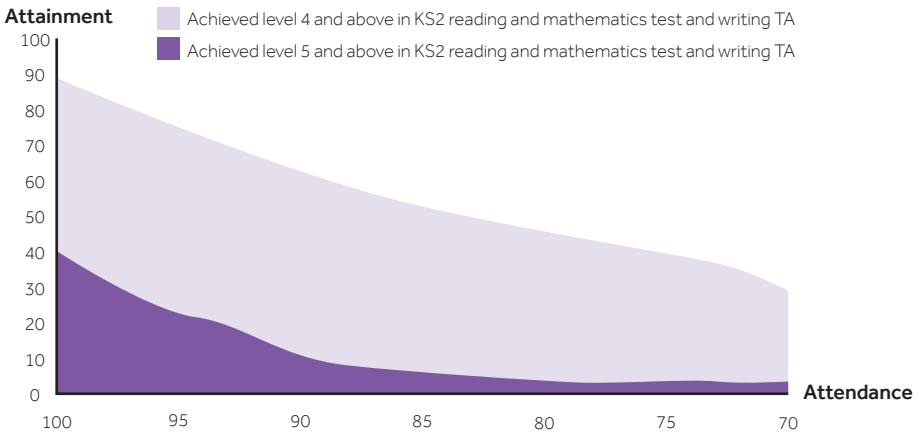
Every day counts at school

In 2010, the Department for Education (DfE) explained that there is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. Less than 40% of pupils in secondary schools with an

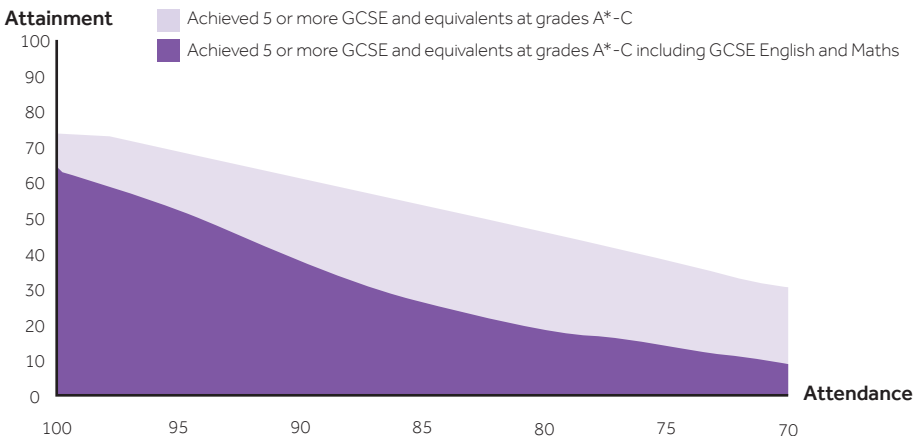
average of 15 days or more absence get 5 good GCSEs.

Give your child their best chance of a successful life and make sure they miss as little school as possible and achieve at least 95% attendance.

Impact on attainment as absence increases at key stage 2



Impact on attainment as absence increases at key stage 4



Is your child missing out?

There are 38 weeks in the year when schools are open, and 14 weeks when families can take holidays. Headteachers are no longer allowed to permit families to take their children out of school for a holiday. You may be allowed to take your child out of school in exceptional circumstances.

If you take your child out of school during term time:

- Your child may lose their place at school and you would have to reapply for a place and there is no guarantee that you would be offered a place at the same school.

- You may be issued with a penalty notice on your return - failure to pay the penalty notice will lead to prosecution.
- You may be prosecuted for failing to ensure that your child attended school regularly chance of a successful life and make sure they miss as little school as possible and achieve at least 95% attendance.

Taking your child out of school during term time for holidays is likely to impact on their achievement.

Being late for school makes it hard for your child to learn

If they are 30 minutes late each day, they miss half a day of learning a week.

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could effect their achievement
- They don't have the social time to settle into class
- It can be embarrassing for them
- They may disrupt the rest of the class.

If your child arrives after the school register is closed,

All of the above is true, and in addition:

- It is classed as an 'unauthorised absence'
- High levels of unauthorised absence can result in a referral to the Education Welfare Service
- Legal action may be taken against you and you could be fined.

Only the headteacher of the school can decide whether to mark an absence as authorised in the school's registers.



What you can do:

- Find out what time school starts and how long it takes to get there.
- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.
- Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.
- Ask your school if they have a breakfast club.
- Speak to the school if you are having problems getting your child to school on time.

School attendance and the law

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act:

“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise”.

Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act:

- (1) If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, their parent is guilty of an offence.

- (1A) If in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1) the parent knows that their child is failing to attend regularly at the school and fails without reasonable justification to cause him to do so, they are guilty of an offence.

Should you be prosecuted for failure to ensure your child’s regular attendance at school, you may be fined up to £2,500 and/or a 3 month term of imprisonment. You may have to pay court and prosecution costs.

In addition, Magistrates may, at their discretion, direct the local authority to apply for an Education Supervision Order or impose a Parenting Order.

Alternatively, you may incur a Fixed Penalty Notice. This is a £60 penalty, payable within 21 days, and issued as a result of your child being absent for unauthorised reasons. Should the penalty not be paid within 21 days, it will increase to £120. Should this not be paid, you will be prosecuted.

Penalty notices are issued to BOTH parents.

Don't let your child miss out

Regular and punctual attendance is both a legal requirement and essential for your child to maximise the opportunities available to them.

If attendance or lateness is a problem and you need some advice, or if you need help with this leaflet, please talk to your child's school or telephone the Education Welfare Service on:

020 8489 3866



Veolia in partnership with Haringey Council, offer free waste and recycling workshops to children of all ages across the borough. For more information on recycling or to book a work call 020 8885 7700 Or go to www.haringey.gov.uk/recycling

Let's all recycle more together