

ATTENDANCE

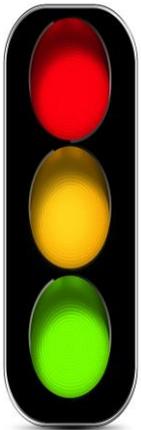
What is all the fuss about???

Your child's attendance is recorded and monitored closely by the school and local authority. This is done by the class teacher taking the register in the morning and afternoon. Absence is recorded as either **authorised** (you have given the school a reason for the absence and the school has accepted this reason) or **unauthorised** (you gave no reason for the absence or the school did not accept the reason you gave for the absence).

The Government has set a target of 96% attendance for primary school children. You will see your child's attendance on school reports/correspondence and you can always ask at reception for information or a copy of your child's attendance data.

Each year there are **190** school days, which leaves **175** days for holidays, shopping, birthday treats, family get-togethers and non-urgent medical and dental appointments.

Please use the following information as a **guide**. It is based on one complete full year.



RED – 90% Attendance = 4 weeks absent from school
85% Attendance = 5.5 weeks absent from school
80% Attendance = 7.5 weeks absent from school

AMBER – 95% Attendance = 2 weeks absent from school

GREEN – 98% Attendance = less than 4 days absent from school
100% Attendance = no days absent from school

DID YOU KNOW.... If a child, over their school life (from 5-16 years) continued to be in the 85-90% bracket, they would have missed a whole year from school. A child maintaining 80% over his/her school life would miss a full two years from school.

Research shows that children with less than 85% attendance are unlikely to gain 5 A-C grade GCSE's or any qualifications at all. It also suggests it is more likely that these children will become involved in anti-social behaviour.

There are many issues that can affect a child's attendance which may include family or relationship problems, housing, mental health, illness or disability, bullying, friendships, depression, confidence/self-esteem, boundaries, routines and many others. Working in partnership with your school will help to support you with any issues you or your child may face. We can help in a variety of ways including helping to resolve issues in school, supporting you, using strategies and interventions with

your child, liaising with other agencies on your behalf and attending meetings with you.

Poor attendance can affect a child's ability to build and maintain friendships with peers and relationships with school staff. They can often become very lonely and unhappy. It also affects a child's confidence and self-esteem. They begin to fall behind in their work and feel inferior to their peers. They could end up being teased, all of which could lead to mental health problems when they are older.

YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION **DOES** MATTER. If you need help, advice or support to give your child the best chances in life then please come in to school and speak to me or another member of staff. **We will** work hard to support you to make the necessary changes and **we won't** make judgements or criticise. Together **we can** plan a way forward. Everything you tell me will be treated confidentially and will not be discussed with anyone else without your permission, unless a child is deemed to be at risk.

Any absence is disruptive to a child's education and it is your legal responsibility to make sure your child is in school. Persistent absence may result in a parenting contract between you and the school/local authority being drawn up, a fine or even prosecution.

Here are a few ways to improve attendance

1. Come to school every day and arrive on time.
2. Make non-urgent medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.
3. Don't take holidays during term time – You have no right to do this!
4. If something is stopping your child from coming to school – **TELL US.**
5. Support your child by taking an interest in what they do in school every day.
6. Communicate with your child and give lots of positive praise.
7. **You** are a role model to your child, if you are positive about their education they will be!

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