

As parents/carers you have the responsibility to ensure your child attends school so they are given the best start and the best chance for future opportunities.

Education plays a major part in this and it helps children develop their social skills and their sense of responsibility and school also teaches the skills we need to face the grown up world. However, sometimes absence can be unavoidable. Here are the procedures that are in place in our school.

What do I do if my child is ill?

You should telephone the school at once if your child cannot attend that day. If your child is absent and the school have not heard from you, they may contact you to ensure your child's safety and to find out the reason for their absence. You should ensure that the school has up-to-date contact numbers so they can contact you in an emergency.

What about doctor's or dentist appointments?

Where possible, these should be made after school. If this is not possible, don't waste a whole day. Send your child to school, pick them up shortly before the appointment and return them straight after. If your child's attendance is poor, the school may ask to see appointment cards.



Can sending my child late to school really matter?

School is a fast moving environment. School groups change and new groups form even in 10 minutes. This can make it difficult for children who are brought to school late (groups have already formed, experiences shared, conversations missed). This can make a child feel uncomfortable and feel 'left out'. If they continually arrive late for school they may begin to dread this feeling and experience, they will lose confidence in themselves and will find their school work suffers.

Holidays in term time

The new law introduced by the government does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. An example of exceptional circumstances is an Armed Services family where the parent in the Armed Services is home on leave. Exceptional circumstance forms can be obtained from the school office.

Can missing some days make that much difference?

Children who miss school regularly may experience the same feelings. It may be difficult when returning to school to find situations/groups have changed or maybe the whole class have participated in an event or activity. Can you imagine how your child will feel, when everyone is talking about this event and your child is unable to participate in the conversation because they hadn't been at school. They may well feel isolated, different, left out or maybe even angry.

How does absence affect my child's education?

The target is that every primary child attends at least 95% of the year. If your child misses 10 days in a school year, they can only achieve 94.7%. Records show that your child's examination results may drop a whole grade for every 19 days missed. If your child misses 30 days in a year (for example 2 weeks' holiday plus 1 week's illness) then your child's attendance would be 85%. If your child's attendance remains at 85% for the whole of their primary education, they will have missed a whole school year.

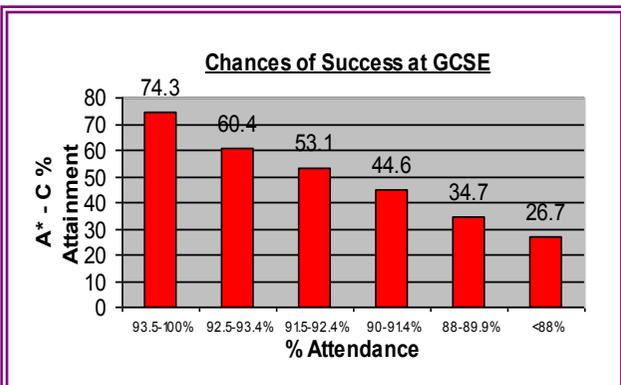
The Role of the Local Authority

- Local Authorities (LAs) are responsible, by law, for making sure parents ensure that registered pupils of compulsory school age attend their school regularly.
- Rotherham LA employs Education Welfare Officers to monitor school attendance and help parents meet their responsibilities.
- Education Welfare Officers work closely with schools and if your child is not attending regularly they may visit you.
- It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure that children attend school regularly. Failure to do so could result in prosecution. Magistrates can impose fines on both parents - the maximum fine is £2,500. each or a prison sentence of 3 months, or both.
- Parents can also be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice
- It is essential that your child attends school regularly - for your child's sake you should co-operate with the school and the Education Welfare Officer.

Regular school attendance is important in order that your child reaches their full potential.

The information below is taken from the DfE and demonstrates the possible impact of attendance upon attainment.

You will see from the graph how drastically attendance affects attainment.



Attendance levels can sometimes be regarded in the same way as examination results.

In an examination 80% would be a very positive result. In attendance terms that would mean that your child has missed 40 days of education, just over 1 day per week. Therefore if your child's attendance remains at 80% for the whole of their secondary education they will miss more than a full year of education.

Attendance Rates

Approximate Days Absence in a School Year	
Attendance Rate	By end of School Year
100%	0
95%	10
90%	20
85%	30
80%	40

IMPORTANT FACTS

While you are away for one week your child will miss:

- 5 hours of literacy
- 5 hours of numeracy
- 10 hours learning of a combination of science, religious education, music, art, physical education, geography, history, design technology & information technology

If your child has a holiday of 2 weeks and has a 1 week period of sickness in one school year they will miss

- 15 hours of literacy
- 15 hours of numeracy
- 30 hours of other lessons

This is equivalent to 7.7% of their schooling in one year. If this pattern is repeated throughout their school life they would miss 33 weeks of their education.

One school year = 39 weeks

THINKING OF TAKING A HOLIDAY NOW?

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School Attendance Leaflet



Helpful information for parents