

Eight tips to help you and your child make going to school easier:

1. Help them get their school bag packed the night before.
2. Make sure their uniform is ready, especially after the holidays or weekend.
3. Get them to bed at a reasonable time so they have a good sleep.
4. Set the alarm clock early enough to allow plenty of time to get ready properly without rushing.
5. Make sure they have some breakfast.
6. Remind them to set off in the car or start walking early enough so they won't be late; punctuality is important.
7. Check they have everything they need, e.g. books, PE kit, dinner money etc.
8. Talk to your child about what they did in school each day – ask them what they are proud of!

Every school in South Gloucestershire has an allocated Educational Welfare Officer who visits or contacts the school regularly.

The school may refer your child to the Educational Welfare Officer if their attendance or punctuality is causing concern. The Educational Welfare Officer will then contact you either by telephone, letter or with a home visit to discuss the school's concerns and how the attendance or punctuality can be improved.

You can contact the Educational Welfare Office for your child's school via the school. Ask a member of our Admin Team for details.

Wheatfield primary School
Wheatfield Drive
Bradley Stoke
BS32 9DB
Tel: 01454 868610
Email: office@wheatfieldprimary.com
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Wheatfield Primary School

Attendance Fact Sheet for Families



Everyone wants the best start for our children – this guide lets you know how you can help!

'High Achievement through Growing and Learning Together'

Some facts about school attendance ... that you probably didn't know.

90% attendance is like having a day off every two weeks.

Keeping children away from school for no good reason is a criminal offence.

If you take a two weeks holiday in term time your child's attendance will automatically be reduced to less than 95%.

The school will not authorise absences without a good reason for your child being off. This can involve asking for medical evidence.

The Government regard 95% as the **minimum** satisfactory attendance for a primary school pupil.

If your child misses any lessons, it is exceptionally challenging to catch up as learning is planned in a series of activities. Assessment can be a failure for your child if they miss key learning activities.

Most children should routinely have attendance rates of 97% or more. This is equivalent to 6 days absence a year. BUT 100% is achieved by many pupils every year in both primary and secondary schools.

Government advice states the **only legally accepted reasons** for not being in school are illness or a day of religious observance. This is exactly the same for school staff.

It can make it harder for your child to get along with other children and make friends. Whilst your child is away, children form other groups.

A 2 week holiday each year in primary school means a total of 14 weeks teaching time missed – this could have a real impact on their basic literacy and maths skills. That gap can remain well into adulthood.

Prolonged absence from school can lead to loneliness.

If you take a 2 week holiday every year in secondary school, your child will have missed 10 weeks of education by the time they sit their GCSEs (and that's assuming they haven't had **a single day off for illness**).