

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

All parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. Your child's future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly.

If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work and find catching up a challenge
- Miss out on social interaction and physical education which are vital components of growing up
- Children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of securing a job when they leave school

Why is punctuality so important?

Being on time is vital. Arriving late to school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher, and other pupils. Being punctual is an important life skill that will be essential for college or in the future workplace.

There may be times when parents are finding it difficult to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If this is the case, it is important to talk to school as soon as possible.

A meeting can be arranged with your child's tutor, Progress Leader or the Attendance Officer to identify barriers impacting your child's school attendance and they will work with you to ensure supportive strategies in place.



What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

- There is a clear link between poor school attendance and lower academic achievement
- Pupils with no absences are over twice as likely to achieve 5 grade 5s and above in their GCSEs
- 90% young people with attendance below 85% fail to achieve 5 or more good GCSEs and around one third achieve no GCSEs!!!

Research shows that a child's life chances can be impacted if they are not in school regularly. Children who truant from school are more likely to be drawn into crime than those who do not.

What does the law say?

By law, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure all children of compulsory school age receive a suitable, full time education.

All parents are responsible for making sure their child attends regularly. If your child fails to attend regularly, even if they miss school without you knowing, the Local Authority may take legal action against you.



What happens if your child does not attend school regularly?

By law, a school is responsible for reporting poor attendance to the Local Authority. As a parent, you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly. You run the risk of being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or being taken to court. The LA may decide to prosecute you. If this happens:

Parents can be fined up to £2,500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly; Magistrates can also impose a Parenting Order, which means that the parent has to attend a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

If your child is going to be absent from school, it is essential that you follow school's absence procedures and contact school to provide a reason for their absence.

You should contact school before 8:30am on the first day of absence and each subsequent day, providing medical evidence if requested.

Parents can encourage good attendance by:

- Having regular morning and evening routines
- Ensure your child/ren are in school on time each and every day
- Ensuring your child has the right equipment & uniform
- Working together with the school to ensure good attendance
- Arranging routine medical appointments outside of school hours. You may be asked to provide medical evidence in order for school to authorise absences should attendance fall below 90%
- Not taking holidays during term time. Holidays will not be authorised by the School as they do not fall under the definition of 'exceptional circumstances'. The Local Authority may issue you a Fixed Penalty Fine
- Attend meetings, as required, with Progress Leaders and Attendance Officer to ensure support is in place to improve attendance
- Tell your child that school is important. Support the school in building resilience and independence in young people.

If you are facing difficulties in getting your child into school, it is important to discuss this with school at the earliest opportunity.

Children are by law required to attend school 190 days per year. The government states that every pupils attendance should be at least 95%

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lesson
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to your child missing 2 whole years from school!!!

Punctuality is just as important. Make every minute count!

Students should be on site at 8.40am, ready for Tutor time.

Being late for school reduces learning time. If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year!

Being late without reason = lunchtime detention so do not be late without good reason!



Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life.

Attendance and Punctuality - The Facts

