

What to do when your child is absent

We understand that occasionally your child may be too poorly to come to school. When this is the case it is important you let the school know that your child won't be in that day. Phone us on 0151 677 1235, and either press option 1 and leave a message, or speak to a member of office staff. We have a duty of care to know where our children are when they should be in school, if we do not know, we may have to come out and find them or refer to Wirral Attendance Service.



There are many reasons why a child may be sick, but it doesn't always mean they have a sickness bug or need to stay off school. Please consider this when deciding if your child is not well enough to not come in. Equally if you have kept them off in the morning but they improve, bring them in for their afternoon mark. Please don't keep your child off unless you feel they really are not well enough to come to school. With many illnesses your child is still welcome to be in school, we have qualified first aiders on site and staff trained in administering medication. If you are ever unsure please speak to a member of staff to clarify.

When possible you should make all medical/dental appointments for outside school hours. Coming and going from class disrupts lessons and learning time. Also we ask you give us notice and proof of any appointments.

Speak to us, be honest and accept the support and guidance that we give to families. We want to work together to ensure that your child is in school every day, on time and ready to learn and get the most from all opportunities that we give to our children.

We take attendance seriously, and so should you!

EVERY DAY COUNTS, EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to make sure your child is in school and on time. If your child's attendance falls below 90% or they are constantly late for school, you will be invited in for a meeting with Mrs Morris and other professionals to discuss the matter. If the things do not improve we will be forced to give you a fixed penalty notice and fine of £60 (rising to £120 if not paid within 21 days).



Attendance Information Booklet 2022



Bringing Learning to Life

EVERY DAY COUNTS, EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

Why is Attendance so Important?

Our children have missed so much during the last 2 years, both academically and socially. They should NEVER be kept off school unless absolutely essential. We do not set targets for attendance as it is **an expectation that EVERY child should be in school EVERYDAY** that we are open. Every day not in school, is a chunk of learning missed by your child. A child with poor attendance will often struggle with their education and easily fall behind. It also impacts their social and emotional development and mental health and wellbeing. Children only get one chance at school- we need to make sure:



EVERY DAY COUNTS, EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

“.....But my child’s attendance is good! It’s 90%!....”

90% is a high percentage if you are taking a test, but not when talking about attendance. In fact a child who has a 90% attendance rate is missing a huge amount of school

- 90% or less is the equivalent of missing one **half a day every week**
- 90% or less is the same as them missing **4 whole weeks over the school year.**
- If your child’s attendance stays at 90% for the seven years of primary school, they would have missed the same as **three quarters of a school year in that time.**
- Your child also could be missing out **socially** by not being in school, making friends is also a huge part about being in school, and by regularly missing school **may effect their ability to make and keep friendships.**
- Attending school every day gives children a sense of purpose and belonging, where their **emotional resilience** is developed and they **build their self confidence and coping strategies** to support them through the rest of their life.

High rates of absence are often an indicator of neglect, in not ensuring your child is in school every, on time and with all they need may trigger referrals to outside agencies. Please work with us to avoid this.

Poor Attendance & The Impact on Children

Less than 65% of children get good results in Maths and English when they have an average of 15 days of absence a year.

On average, with children who miss 50% of school, only 3% of them will go on to achieve positive GCSE grades . GCSEs may seem a long way off when your child is in Primary school but highlights the importance to instil good habits about going to school at an early age.

It is very hard to catch up on work that has been missed, especially in younger years when they are learning the foundations of how to read and write. Our children are already ‘catching up’ on lost learning time from the pandemic, lockdown and COVID related disruption to school attendance- they do not need to miss anymore time.

The main impact that we see is on children’s emotional wellbeing, ability to socialise and build meaningful relationships. Routines, stability and a sense of belonging is vitally important for all children to thrive and succeed in being:

READY- RESPECTFUL- RESPONSIBLE

What the Law Says

As a parent you MUST make sure your child gets a full time education that meets their needs. All children MUST attend school daily from the term after they turn 5 to the last Friday in June the year they turn 16. You can be prosecuted if you don’t give your child an education and their attendance or punctuality is an ongoing concern.

It is a legal requirement for your child to be in school and on time every day. We can support you, work with us and avoid prosecution and a criminal record.

Holidays in Term Time

As a school we do not allow holidays in term time. Mrs Morris may authorise absence on rare occasions but this must be requested two weeks prior in writing and the exceptional circumstances for the request must be made clear. If you take your child on holiday, it will be noted on their records as unauthorised absence and you may be fined by Wirral Council for £60 per parent per child, which would rise to £120 if not paid within 21 days, Section 44 Education Act 1996

