

School Attendance Matters



You Belong Here!



We know that every day counts...

but what does that mean?

100% attendance	No days missed.	Excellent	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start.
95% attendance	Nine days of absence. 1 week and 4 days of learning missed.	Satisfactory	
90% attendance	19 days of absence. 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed.	Concerning	Less chance of success. Makes it harder to progress.
85% attendance	28 days of absence. 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. Almost half a term missed.	Very concerning	Serious implications on learning and progress.
80% attendance	38 days of absence. 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. Half a term missed.	Extremely concerning	
75% attendance	47 days of absence. 9 weeks and 2 days of learning missed. Almost one whole term missed.	Extremely concerning	

If your child has 90% attendance they will have the equivalent of:

- half a day off per week
- 19 days off per year
- 247 days off over their school career of 13 academic years, equivalent to over one year of lost education.

Consider what this means for 80% or even 75% attendance



When can your child miss school?

The Department for Education states that you can only allow your child to miss school if they are ill or if you have advance permission from the Headteacher.

Your child can be off school if:

- They are ill
- They are attending a doctor or hospital appointment
- They are going to a meeting about a children's hearing, care review or court
- They are involved in an activity and the school agrees in advance
- Someone close to your child has died
- There is a crisis or serious difficulty at home or in your family
- They are going to a religious ceremony or a wedding of someone very close to them
- You are a Gypsy/ Traveller family and while you go travelling you keep in touch with your child's teacher
- Your family is returning to a country of origin for cultural reasons or to care for a relative.

What happens if your child misses too much school?

You will be contacted if your child is persistently absent. We will discuss your child's attendance with you and help you come up with a plan to make sure they get to school.

The emphasis will be on providing support to help you improve your child's attendance.

If absences continue, legal action can be taken. Consequences include a parenting order, compelling you to do what the court says to improve your child's attendance; a fine of £60, rising to £120 if you don't pay within 21 days and prosecution, which could lead to a community service order, a fine of up to £2,500, or a custodial sentence of up to three months.

What absences are not authorised?

Certain types of absence will be marked as unauthorised. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, agreed by the Headteacher **time off for holidays is always unauthorised.**

Absences where parents haven't given the school a reason are also recorded as unauthorised. If your child is late to school and the registers have closed, this will also be marked as an unauthorised absence, even if they turn up later in the day.

Avoid taking family holidays during the school term

There are over 175 days a year available for holidays to be arranged outside term time!

What can you do to help?

Be aware of the impact of regular absences - missing school is missing out. Take family holidays during school holidays.

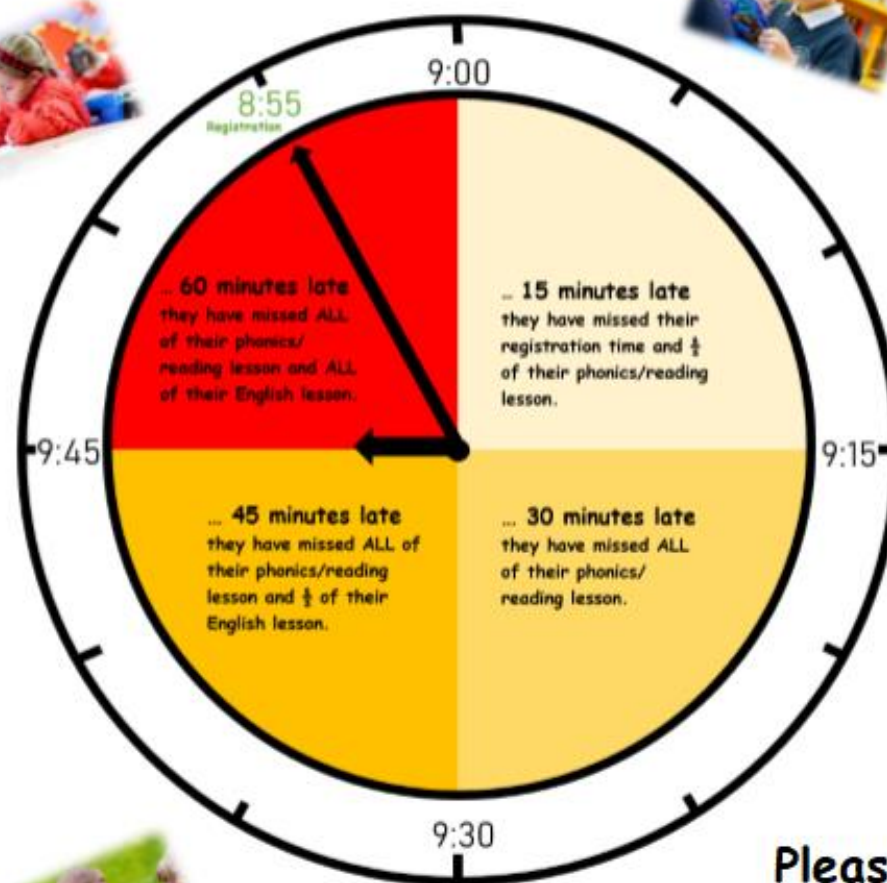
Try to arrange non-urgent dental and medical appointments outside school hours and if an appointment must be made within school hours, try to ensure your child is back at school as soon as possible.

Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead: build-up good habits of punctuality and attendance.

Inform us if your child is absent due to illness or other reasons.

Most importantly, please discuss any problems or difficulties with us: we are here to help and will be supportive.

If your child is...



Please get your child to school on time.