



Importance of Strong Attendance

Dear Parents,

I am sure that you have read a number of articles in the press recently which show evidence that every single day at school counts. The evidence is clear that even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects.

How attendance affects attainment

- Recent research by the Department for Education (DfE) shows just how close attendance and attainment are linked.
- At school, children who attend school nearly every day (95-100% attendance) are 30% more likely to reach the expected standards compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95% of the time.
- Furthermore Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time. That means that missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%.

The long-term impact on earnings

- Research therefore shows that missing school affects exam results but that it also impacts future earnings.
- Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance.
- For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, a pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future earnings.

What can you do?

- Analysis from across England shows that attending school at least 96% of the time will give children and young people the best chance of getting the most out of their education.
- Parents and carers have a legal responsibility for making sure their child gets a full-time education. Children must get an education from the school term after their fifth birthday until the last Friday in June in the school year they turn 16.
- As a parent or carer, you have an important role in making school attendance a priority. Only keep your child off school when they are genuinely too ill to attend. Book medical appointments and holidays outside of school time and talk to the school if you're having difficulties with attendance.

There is a small list of reasons why absence from school is acceptable, which are if your child has a contagious disease, or if they have a medical appointment that could not possibly have been arranged during the school holidays or after school hours. The following reasons are not considered acceptable reasons for missing school, according to the policy set by government including if they do not have uniform, their birthday falls on a school day, they have a minor illness such as a headache or stomach ache, their parents are ill or their school work is too hard.



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To help your child get the most out of their education you could:

- ✓ Pack school bags the night before
- ✓ Check they have everything they need e.g. books, PE kit
- ✓ Make sure their uniform is ready, especially after the weekend
- ✓ Make sure they get to bed at a reasonable time so they have a good night's sleep.
- ✓ Set an alarm clock so you can all wake up in plenty of time to get ready for school properly
- ✓ Encourage your child to eat a healthy breakfast
- ✓ Set off for school in plenty of time to allow for traffic – being punctual is important for your child's development and to ensure the rest of the class is not disrupted
- ✓ Talk to your child about what they did in school each day, take an active role in their education.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support with your child's education

Mr Shaw

Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral.