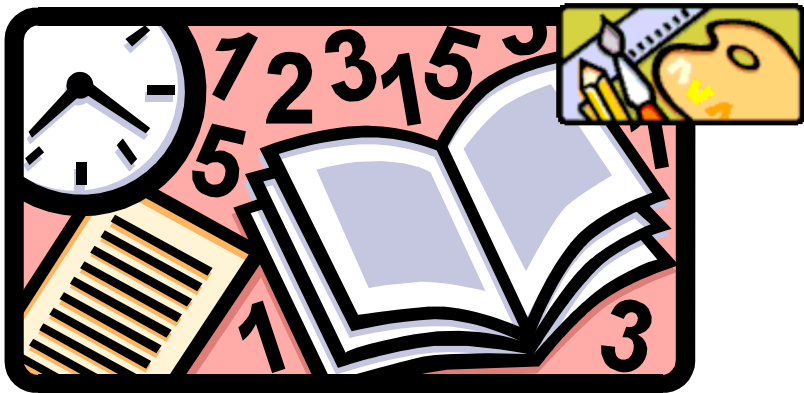


# School Attendance

Good school attendance is one of the main factors in determining your child's future and opportunities in life.



## What about holidays in term time?

There are 190 school days in a year, leaving you 175 days in which to take holidays!

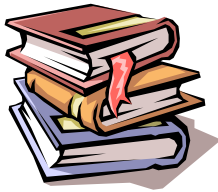
You should not expect your child's school to agree to an absence for a holiday in term time. Taking a holiday during term time means that children miss important school time – both educationally and for other school activities. It will be difficult for them to catch up on work later on.

Parents do not have a legal right to take children out of school on holiday. The law says that schools have the discretion to grant up to ten days authorised absence in a school year. Each application is considered individually by the school, taking into account factors like the reason for the holiday, its timing and the child's attendance record. Schools will only consider requests for more than 10 days leave a year in exceptional circumstances. If you need to take your child out of school during term time:

- \_ you should request the time off for your child as soon as possible;
- \_ never ask for time off during exam or test periods unless for exceptional circumstances;
- \_ do not book travel for holidays in term time, until you have sought the school's permission; and
- \_ remember that the school might not agree to authorise the time off.

If you are concerned about your child's school attendance please discuss with school or contact

**Education Welfare Service**  
**01452 505055**



One of the most important things you can do for your child is to make sure they attend school regularly, as the more school work they miss the harder it will be to catch up and the less they may want to try. Also the longer they are away the harder it may be for them to fit back into school life and form friendships.

By law, all children of compulsory school age (5 to 16, the last Friday in June of year 11) must get a suitable, full-time education. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure this happens

**If you do have to keep your child off school, please remember it is only the Headteacher who can authorise your child's absence.... even when you contact school, bring a note or fill in a holiday form.**

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age will also help your child later on. Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class.

As a parent, you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly, even if they are missing school without your knowledge.

#### **Did you know:**

**90% attendance may seem positive but it means missing 1 HALF DAY A WEEK. This equals A WHOLE HALF YEAR of secondary education!**

#### **These reasons for being absent from school are acceptable:**

- My child is too ill to leave the house.
- My child has a hospital appointment.
- Day of religious observance.
- My child has toothache and has an emergency appointment.



#### **These reasons for keeping your child away from school are not acceptable:**

- To mind the house.
- To look after brothers and sisters.
- To go shopping.
- To celebrate a birthday.
- Sleeping in.
- One child is ill, so all are kept off.
- Minor ailments such as tummy ache or headache.
- Because it is the end of the week or the term.



#### **What can I do to help?**

\_ If you suspect that your child may be missing school or is unhappy at school, you should contact the school or the Education Welfare Service as soon as possible so that you can work with them to resolve any difficulties.

\_ Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of them missing school, but be on the alert for any particular reasons for non-attendance, such as bullying or problems with school work and discuss these with the school.

\_ If your child is ill or absent for any other reason, contact the school on the first day of absence and keep them regularly updated.

\_ Follow the school's procedures for notifying absence, and always let the school know of any days that your child is unable to attend.

\_ Make sure your child arrives at school on time for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

\_ Take an interest in your child's education. Ask them about their day, and praise and encourage their achievements at school.

\_ Co-operate with any support

**Always keep school updated with any change of contact details**

