

Attendance Matters



Abbey School Parent/Carer Guide

DID YOU KNOW?

Studies have shown that there is a direct link between attendance and attainment. Simply put...if a child is not at school then they miss vital learning which could help their development later in life.

We've compiled some facts to show the impact attendance can have and why it's important that children attend school regularly and what **YOUR** role is in ensuring your children get the best out of their education along with some useful tips.



What does Attendance % mean?

The table below shows how many school days a child has missed based on their attendance percentage at the end of the school year.

You might think that 90% is not that bad, right...?

.....this would mean that your child has missed 4 whole weeks of learning, that's 20 school days!

If they had 90% attendance every year for 5 years then this would be nearly half a year of school missed!

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?					
100%	94%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Excellent No days missed	Good 10 days missed (2 weeks)	Worrying 19 days missed (4 weeks)	Cause for concern 29 days missed (6 weeks)	Serious Concern 38 days missed	Major Issue 47 days missed
Aim to be here		Step 1 Initial contact made to discuss concerns and provide support	Step 2 Meeting in school with SLT and Governors	Step 3 Referral to Early Help	Step 4 Possible Fixed Penalty Notice

Aim for a minimum 94% every Term

What will we do to help?

We monitor attendance daily and if we have any causes for concern, we will always contact you to discuss any problems that are occurring in which we can support you with. As a school, we will:

- Ring you on the first day of your child's absence if we do not hear from you.
- Conduct home visits if we have been unable to contact you as part of our safeguarding policy.
- Inform you of your child's attendance at regular intervals such as at the end of every half term/term/school year.
- Analyse attendance data on a regular basis to identify patterns of absence. We will always consider a child's individual medical needs and take this into account when analysing data.
- Request medical evidence to support your child's absences.
- Hold attendance panel meetings in school for students with poor attendance.
- Refer to Early Help if no improvement after interventions.
- Recognise children with good attendance and also those who are showing improvement as part of our school rewards system.
- Reward parents whose children have good attendance through an end of year raffle to win a prize.
- If your child becomes unwell in school we will contact you for medication or to collect your child and take them home.

What can you do to help?

There are a number of reasons why a child may need genuine time off school. There are circumstances that cannot be helped and we do understand this, however, to maintain a good level of attendance you can help minimise the amount of time a child is absent by following these useful tips.

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are genuinely ill. Keep in mind complaints of stomach ache or headache as these can be signs a child doesn't want to come to school.
- Contact school before 9:00am with the reason for your child's absence and when they are likely to return.
- Refrain from booking holidays in term time.
- Medical appointments should be made out of school hours or in the half term breaks, particularly dental appointments. Children should not miss school due to check-ups that are not urgent. To avoid missing a whole school day, ensure they attend before/after the appointment.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- Talk to your child about school and encourage them to be excited about learning.

Who can I talk to?

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talking to us is the first step to resolving any issues.

Some things can be 'nipped in the bud' before they develop and the quicker we act the better the outcome. We are here to help you and will be happy to discuss any problems you may be experiencing and offer support and advice.

You can contact your child's teacher or class team by contacting school or alternatively, you can speak to our wellbeing team who can help you directly or put you in touch with external services that may be able to help.

You can call the school on 01709 740074.





Student Rewards



We're working on our student rewards with the School Council. We want children to have their say too so we will be conducting a poll to see what kinds of prizes they would like to receive for good attendance.

Our Awards will be given every half term

Our Awards Categories

The courage Attendance Award

The heart Attendance Award

The Attitude Attendance Award

The Respect Attendance Award

Other categories will include:

Most improved attendance

Good effort attendance

Best class attendance

Best House attendance

We are very interested to hear your thoughts as you know your children more than anyone, get in touch by emailing us your attendance/rewards ideas on abbeyschool@nexusmat.org



ATTEND TO ACHIEVE