

Attendance Matters



Our #TeamAbbey
Family 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 graphic 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...?

Fact

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!

Attendance Explained

Good

100% 190 Days

95% 180 Days

Only 1-2 Days missed per term

Worrying

94% 178 Days

86% 163 Days

Between 3-8 days missed per term

Concern

85% 161 Days

75% 143 Days

More than 9 days missed per term

01709 740074



If your concerned or worried about attendance please call us

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.

Hold attendance panel meetings in school for students with poor attendance.

Refer to Education Welfare Service or 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. Medicate and send to school and if they become unwell we will always contact you.

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, but if you have no alternative due to work schedules then try to minimise this by arranging around a school holiday to reduce the number of days missed.

Medical appointments, where possible, 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**.



Rewards and Incentives

We're always 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.



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

abbeyschool@nexusmat.org – 01709 740074