

School Attendance and Punctuality

School attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential. The government has set a target of 95% attendance for all pupils. This rate allows for periods of illness or particular circumstances when absence from school is unavoidable. We want your child to attend school regularly as this supports their learning. If your child is not well or if you have a planned reason why your child cannot attend school, please inform the school at the earliest opportunity.

Children of compulsory school age must, by law, receive a full time education.

Each person with day to day parental responsibility could be taken to court and fined for each child who is not attending school regularly or who is persistently late.

The Education Act 1996 states that all pupils should attend school regularly and punctually. 'If a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, the parent is guilty of an offence.'

Some key attendance facts:

- Attending 90% of the time or less will have a serious effect on learning.
- One day's absence every two weeks will give 90% attendance.
- Up to the age of 16, 90% attendance will mean losing over a year of school – more than half.

Punctuality

It is important that children attend school on time every day. Persistent lateness can:

- Cause embarrassment to the child.
- Make it harder for the child to settle.
- Cause disruption to the rest of the class.

Persistent lateness can be legally counted as unauthorised absence.

The school operates a First Day Response and will telephone families where children have failed to attend school in time for morning registration.

If you are having difficulty getting your child into school on time every day, please see Mrs Flannery or Mrs Hickman.