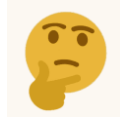




DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?



Attendance

Children are required by law to regularly attend school and as parents it's your responsibility that this happens. Each school has its own attendance policy and Biddick Hall Junior School expects its children to achieve an attendance in excess of 96% which allows for the usual coughs, colds and childhood illnesses that occur.

Good communication between school and home prevents a lot of problems occurring as if school cannot contact home they have a duty of care to establish that the child is safe and this can result in a call to the 'Children and Young People's Service' to pay a home visit. Please inform school on the first day of absence and keep us updated.

NO leave of absence will be granted for holidays during term time and you will be liable for a Holiday Penalty Notice Fine.

There are **190** school days which leaves 175 days for holidays and other activities when the children are not expected to be at school.

How does occasional absence affect my child?

Missing occasional days from school may seem unimportant at the time; however, this can have a significant impact on your child in the long term. Regular absences can result in poorer outcomes over time. Research shows that pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (which is between half and one day per week on average) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

Late arrivals also add up over time – being 10 minutes late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning time over the whole school year.

Categorising Attendance and Learning Hours Lost over the course of a whole academic year.

DESCRIPTOR	THRESHOLD ATTENDANCE	ACTUAL ATTENDANCE	WHOLE DAYS ABSENCE	LEARNING HOURS LOST
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
Unsatisfactory Persistent absentism	91%	173 days	17	85
	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125



DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?



Why is school attendance important?

Pupils with good attendance are more likely to do well at school. When pupils miss school, even if the time period is very short, it can lead to gaps in their learning which might make future lessons more difficult for them.

Regular attendance helps pupils to feel part of the school community and enables them to develop good relationships with their peers and other members of the school community. This can have a positive impact on their wellbeing and help them to feel more settled in school.

When a pupil attends school every day, it helps to establish good routines and habits for their later life.

What are the different types of absence?

There are two broad categories of absence:

Authorised absence: This is an absence that has been authorised by the school for a legitimate medical, emergency or unavoidable situation.

Typical examples of authorised absence include:

- illness that means a child is **too unwell** to come to school;
- following NHS advice regarding remaining off school following a period of illness (in the case of certain infectious illnesses);
- an emergency medical or dental appointment;
- the recent death of a close family member;
- religious observance, as long as certain conditions are met.

Unauthorised absence: This is where a pupil's absence is for a reason deemed to be unacceptable by the school or where the reason for a pupil's absence has not been provided and cannot be established.

Some examples of unauthorised absence include:

- looking after a younger sibling;
- time off for birthday celebrations;
- a family holiday;
- oversleeping;
- shopping trips or days out;
- waiting in for a delivery.

What about medical appointments?

We understand that pupils need to attend medical and dental appointments and that it is not always possible to arrange this outside of school time. However, we would request that any non-emergency appointments are made for outside of the school day as this keeps the disruption to a minimum and ensures that they do not miss important lessons.



YES ATTENDANCE MATTERS – MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS EVERY DAY