

NEW GOVERNMENT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

From 1 September 2015, the Government has reduced the threshold for persistent absence from 15% to 10%. Pupils now below 90% are identified as a persistent absentee regardless of whether the school has authorised or unauthorised the absence. This equates to 38 sessions or 19 days of absence across the year.

Schools are no longer judged solely on their overall attendance figures, but also on the number of pupils who fall into the persistent absence category.

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to fulfil their potential. The attendance pattern for all children is monitored weekly. Our school seeks to work actively with parents to ensure that regular attendance is maintained. The Department for Education has published data on their website that clearly shows the link between attendance and attainment. This highlights the fact that there will be an impact on your child's education and test results if attendance is not consistently above 95% throughout their schooling.

Minor ailments, such as a headache or slight cold, are not acceptable reasons for failing to attend school. Repeated absences may require the school to request that you obtain medical evidence from your doctor's surgery or local pharmacy as recommended by the Government.

I would also like to remind you that the law does not give any entitlement to parents to remove their child from school during term-time for the purpose of a holiday. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence where an application has been made in advance and the Governing Body considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

We are confident that you will be keen to work with us to ensure that your child meets the threshold requirements since it is clear that this will have a positive effect on their learning.

Please take note of the table below which gives a good picture of how your child's attendance equates to days and weeks missed from school.

Attendance during one school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately	Which means the number of lessons missed
94%	10 days	2 weeks	60 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	120 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	180 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	240 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	300 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	345 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	405 lessons