

Nc

'Success for All'



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY

**IMPORTANT
ATTENDANCE
INFORMATION FOR
YOU AND YOUR CHILD
FROM 2024**

**NEW GOVERNMENT REFORM
FOR TACKLING UNAUTHORISED
ABSENCES IN SCHOOLS.**



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WHAT IS AN UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE?

The new sharing of daily school registers between the Department of Education, school and Kirklees, will create a new attendance data set which will help schools more easily spot and support children displaying worrying trends of persistent absence (below 90%).

Parent fines for unauthorised absences will also be brought under a national framework. These fines will be issued if a child misses 5 days of school due to unauthorised absence. The costs for fines will be £80 if paid within 21 days and from £160 if paid within 28 days.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

THE FINE FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE AIMS TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE AND ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON STUDENT HABITS AND WELL-BEING.

YOUR CHILD MUST ATTEND SCHOOL EVERYDAY UNLESS:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance.
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet.

YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE WILL BE CLASSED AS UNAUTHORISED IF:

- You fail to notify the school that your child is too ill to attend that day or has a medical appointment.
- You haven't asked in advance for, or been given permission by the school for your child to be absent due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child is late (after 9.15) and misses morning registration
- Your child absconds from school
- You take your child on holiday during term time.



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WHY IS ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?

Being in school everyday is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development.

Pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 have lower levels of absence.

Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths have a higher rate of absence overall.

Pupils who do not achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths GCSE have a higher rate of absence overall.

Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage at KS2 and KS4, the lower the level of attainment at the end of the key stage.

Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.

Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent.

EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT THE STUDENTS WITH THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THEIR TIME IN SCHOOL GAIN THE BEST GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS.

**FOR MOST PUPILS, THE BEST PLACE TO BE DURING TERM-TIME IN IS SCHOOL, SURROUNDED BY THE SUPPORT OF THEIR FRIENDS AND TEACHERS.
THIS IS IMPORTANT NOT JUST FOR YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING, BUT ALSO FOR THEIR OVERALL WELLBEING, WIDER DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR MENTAL HEALTH.**



WHAT YOU MUST DO:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/ letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport: call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Contact you to discuss your child's attendance if we have concerns.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings for persistent absence.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we will make a welfare home visit.