

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

To give your child the best opportunity to learn and to fully benefit from the education provided, it is crucial that your child attends school regularly. Regular attendance will also allow children to make friends and develop social skills.

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, you must inform the school office on the morning of the first day of the illness.

Absences outside of the school holiday period are not permitted in the UK and should you wish to request additional time away from school, this must be authorised by the head teacher of your child's school prior to you taking your child out of school. The school will decide whether the reason for any absence is acceptable. If the reason provided for the absence is judged to be unsatisfactory it will be classed as unauthorised. Frequent, unexplained or continued unauthorised absences could lead to a referral to our Education Enforcement team. If this happens they can take legal steps to enforce school attendance.

Examples of the types of absence that may be marked as authorised:

- Illness – you must notify your child's school on the morning of their first day of absence.
- Medical or dental appointments – you should try to arrange these outside school hours if possible.
- Leave of absence such as time off due to bereavement.
- Religious observance.
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence when the family is travelling for occupational purposes.

The overall minimum attendance target for each child is usually set at 95% which equals to 9 absent days. It is monitored by the school and other education bodies (for instance welfare officers or social workers) who will contact you if your child regularly misses school. As a last resort they may decide to give you penalty notices of £60 to £120. If a parent does not pay a penalty notice, s/he will be prosecuted and fined up to £2,500, may get a jail sentence of up to three months or a community sentence.

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Schools-learning/schoolattendance>