



Attendance - A guide for parents.

1. When does my child need to be in School?

Your child should be at school by 8:55 a.m. but not before 8:40 a.m, unless they are attending breakfast club, to be ready to go into class at 8:55. The register is taken at 9.00am. Afternoon school starts at 1:15 p.m.

2. What happens if my child is late?

Registration closes at 9.20 am in the morning and 1.20 pm in the afternoon.

Pupils who arrive after 9.00 am registration should report to the school office. If a pupil arrives after 9.00 am but before 9.20 am they will receive a late mark.

If a pupil arrives after the register closes at 9.20 am they will be marked as an unauthorised absence unless a satisfactory explanation is received.

A series of unauthorised late marks may lead to referral to the EWO (Education Welfare Officer).

3. Does the school need letters explaining my child's absence or will a phone call do?

We would expect a parent to telephone the school on the first day of absence (and each subsequent day of absence).

We will telephone you if your child has not arrived in school by 9:30 a.m. If we do not receive an explanation, or if the explanation is unsatisfactory, we will not authorise the absence. The telephone call will be logged and the reason for absence entered into our database.

If we are concerned about aspects of your child's attendance or punctuality we will contact you to discuss the best way forward.

An accumulation of unauthorised absences will lead to a referral to the Educational Welfare Service.

Letters of explanation will only be required if, following a discussion with the head-teacher or Education Welfare Officer, attendance has become a concern.

4. What reasons will the school accept for absences?

- Illness. However persistent illness without medical evidence will not be authorised: After more than 20 days illness parents will be expected to grant permission for the school to consult the medical practitioner concerned.

- Emergency dental/medical appointment. (Please make routine appointments after school or during the holidays)
- Day of religious observance
- Family bereavement

Except in the case of illness, you should ask for permission for your child to miss school well in advance, giving full details. In cases of recurring absences through illness you may be asked to produce a medical certificate.

5. What is unacceptable?

The school will not authorise absences other than those in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays, day trips, shopping or birthdays are not classed as exceptional.

6. Can we take family holidays during term-time?

Family holidays should be taken during school holidays. Only in exceptional circumstances will permission be given. You need to request permission in writing to the Headteacher in advance, and also book an appointment to discuss this with the Headteacher for your child to accompany you on a family holiday during term time. The Headteacher has the right to refuse permission.

7. What can I do to encourage my child to attend School?

Make sure your child gets enough sleep and gets up in plenty of time each morning. Ensure that he / she leaves home in the correct clothes and properly equipped. Show your child, by your interest, that you value his / her education. Your child will bring home a school diary each evening. Please ensure you look at it with your child and sign it ready for the next day.

8. My child is trying to avoid coming to School. What should I do?

Contact your child's class teacher immediately and openly discuss your worries. Your child could be avoiding school for a number of reasons – difficulties with school work, bullying, friendship problems, family difficulties. It is important that we identify the reason for your child's reluctance to attend school and work together to tackle the problem.