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The Achieve and Learn Trust believes that excellent attendance is the foundation for every student's success, wellbeing, and future opportunities, and we work in partnership with families to support every child in being present, engaged, and ready to thrive."

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. For some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. This is why schools in the Achieve and Learn Trust, are committed to working together with families to solve problems and support your child's school attendance.

Back to School

When children attend school consistently they are more likely to do well in their work but also **build strong relationships** and **feel connected** with the school community. It also **demonstrates reliability** which will help **prepare children for life** beyond education and **looks positive to future employers**.

Benefits of Good Attendance

- Pupils with good attendance generally achieve higher grades
- Pupils with good attendance generally enjoy school more
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life
- Good school attendance helps to develop other responsible patterns of behaviour

Some Risks of Poor Attendance

- Pupils are likely to miss learning activities that their classmates have taken part in, which could mean they fall behind
- They miss out on social interaction with friends/classmates - this can have a negative effect on wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Low attendance is associated with anti-social behaviour and poor learning behaviours

By law, **parents are responsible** for ensuring all children of compulsory school age attend school or are educated at home. If your child misses school for at least 10% of the time they will be classed as persistently absent, which is treated seriously (unless there is a valid reason such as serious illness). You will be considered to be breaking the law and can be fined or even prosecuted.

Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

What are my responsibilities for my child's attendance?

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable fulltime education, usually from the age of 5 to 16. For most parents, this will mean making sure your child is in school every day except when:






- 1. Your child is too ill to attend**
- 2. You have received advanced permission from the school due to exceptional circumstances**
- 3. Your child is absent due to religious observance**

Under no circumstances should you take your child out of school to go on a family holiday.






This will not be authorised by any school in the Trust.

This is in line with the guidance from the Department for Education. You will face a penalty fine if you do so.

AUTHORISED

-  An absence for sickness for which the school has granted leave
-  Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during school time.
-  Religious or Cultural observances
-  An absence due to a family emergency
-  Sporting events, music assessments and competitions (Approval is required)

UNAUTHORISED

-  Students who are absent from school without reason
-  Truancy before or during the school day
-  Arrival at the school after registration has closed. (after 9:00am)
-  Absence due to shopping, looking after other children or birthdays
-  Mild student illness

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools about [health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school on the first day of absence. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their school know.