

To Learn:

- It is never too early to learn good habits, School is training for life.
- Every absence leads to a break in learning.
- Schools do not have 'empty' days and missed work cannot always be caught up.

To be safe:

- Truancy/unsupervised absences can put students at risk.
- Persistent absentees are statistically more likely to become teenage parents, unemployed or homeless, or to engage in petty crime and drug abuse. Good attenders are less likely to fall into these dangers. A persistent absentee is a pupil who misses on average one day of school each week throughout the academic year.

To prepare for the world of work and lifelong learning:

- Your child's attendance records are passed on through all their schools and to prospective employers/colleges.
- It is vital that good punctuality and attendance patterns are established from an early age – all future employers/colleges will expect this.

To enjoy education:

Good attendance means that your child:

- Meets other people.
- Makes and keeps friends.
- Learns social skills



Punctuality is a good thing!

Being on time:

- Gets the day off to a good start with everyone in a positive frame of mind.
- Sets positive patterns for the future.
- Helps your child to make the most of his/her learning.
- Helps children to develop a sense of responsibility both to themselves and others.
- Leads to success and self confidence.

Arriving at school 10 minutes late every day for a week results in 50 minutes of missed learning. If repeated over the year this results in almost 1 ½ weeks missed education.

Arriving late causes embarrassment and anxiety for pupils. Think about how you would feel if you had to walk into a room full of people and all eyes turned to look at you?

Arriving a few minutes late **DOES** affect your child's chances to learn!

The Law:

The Education Act 1996 requires parents to ensure their children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education.

The law says that parents/carers whose children of compulsory school age are absent from school without good reason are committing an offence.

Unauthorised absence includes:

- Arriving after the register has closed
- All day dental/medical appointments.
- Birthdays.
- Shopping – even for school clothes.
- Extended family holidays (unless there are exceptional circumstances).
- Looking after sick relatives or younger children.

You need to be aware that, although you may provide a reason for absence, it is the school which decides if the absence is recorded as authorised or unauthorised.

The consequences:

- Your child misses out on the education they are legally entitled to.
- School staff meet regularly with the Local Authority Attendance Improvement Officer to discuss individual pupil attendance and decide strategies.
- Parents who are seen to fail in their duty can be issued with a Penalty Notice and/or brought before the Magistrates Court where a maximum £2,500 fine and/or a 3-month prison sentence can be imposed.

Practicalities

- You need to make attendance a priority.
- It is a parent's responsibility to contact the school to report any absence. It is also good practice to send a note into school upon your child's return, explaining the reason for absence.
- Your child should return to school as soon as he/she is able to do so.
- If you fear your child has not attended school, telephone the school so a check can be made.
- If you have ANY concerns about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Holidays

In total there are 175 non-school days a year. This gives families the opportunity to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits and days out
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Attend routine appointments

Authorisation for family holidays in term time is only given if there are exceptional circumstances. It is important that you ask the school before you book a holiday.

Please note that if your child has a holiday of 2 weeks during term time and has a 1 week period of illness they would miss 75 hours of education in an academic year. If this pattern were to be repeated throughout your child's school life they would miss almost a whole year of their education.

Did you know?

If your child attends school **100%** they will be able to make the best of all the opportunities available to them.

Children who attend above 90% are more likely to gain 5 or more A-C GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

If your child has **90%** attendance over the whole 11 years at school they will have missed over one year's education!

91.1% attendance = missing 17 days of school in one year

Missing 17 days a year also means dropping 1 GCSE grade (on average)

Children with less than **85%** attendance are unlikely to gain 5 A-C GCSEs or any qualifications.

82.1% attendance = missing 34 days of school in one year

If your child has **80%** attendance over the whole 11 years at school they will miss over **TWO** year's education!

Poor attendance like this will have a serious impact on education and life chances.

Please remember – schools can only teach those who attend!

 **Norfolk** County Council
at your service



every **child** matters
a brighter future for Norfolk's young people

School Attendance Matters

All schools in Norfolk are committed to good school attendance because it is important for pupils:

- To learn
- To be safe
- To prepare for the world of work and lifelong learning
- To enjoy education

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Punctual and regular school attendance is an essential requirement for successful learning from the time a child starts school.