

Please keep us informed

If your child is absent please contact the school office on the first day of absence before 9:30am

Longhorsley St Helen's C of E
First School



&



Whalton C of E Primary

Aspire - Believe - Achieve ...



Every Day Counts



*Missing
school*

is missing out!

Good attendance

D R A F E T

Longhorsley St Helen's C

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Northumberland
NE65 8UT

tel: 01670 788316

email: longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk

Whalton C of E Primary School

Whalton, Morpeth
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NE61 3XH

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Attendance Information
for
Parents & Carers

*Excellent attendance
promotes excellent learning*

School Attendance and Punctuality

The Federation of Longhorsley & Whalton C of E Schools believes that regular school attendance is crucial to allowing children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them to become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

We believe that attendance is a shared responsibility and children who gain full attendance at school will:

- maximise their chance of achieving well;
- suffer less disruption and thus be more settled;
- develop better work habits;
- be more receptive to learning;
- maximise all educational opportunities open to them.

Our schools praise and reward good attendance.

For those children who miss school for avoidable reasons, we find the following:

- they miss important learning;
- they can find it hard to "catch up";
- they can feel left out of social interaction with their peer groups;
- they find it difficult to settle back into school;
- they can develop a poor work ethic;
- on their return, they can find it hard to be prepared for learning.

In addition, a pupil or student who is frequently late is similarly disadvantaged, if not more so.

If a child is late for just one week per year, ie five times, by the time they are 16 they will have missed the equivalent of one term.

If children are late for three weeks, 15 days, in any year, this equates to one whole year by the time they are 16!

In order for our pupils and students to be able to fulfil their potential, we would encourage everyone to join with us and the majority of parents, to ensure all children achieve maximum attendance.

From September 2013 amendments have been made to Government legislation. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

In order to access a families case for absence parents must advise us using our Request for Leave of Absence form. On receipt of this completed form the Attendance Co-ordinator will arrange a 1:1 meeting to discuss the child/ren's attendance data and reason for the request.

An absence may be granted if the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional.

No absence request will be granted in the period of, and leading up to, statutory assessments administered annually in May (Year 2 and Year 6 SATs) and June (Year 1 Phonics Screening and Y4 Multiplication Tables Check)



What the law says ...

From 1 September 2013 new regulations come into force for The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2013.

The current regulations state that headteachers can grant requests from parents to take their child on family holiday during term time in "special" circumstances. The Government has accepted Charlie Taylor's recommendation that changes are made to the pupil registration regulations to **strengthen the rules around term time holidays.**

Amendments to the regulations now remove references to 'family holiday' and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that schools **'may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances'**.

Please note:

The regulations made by the Secretary of State for Education provide that you should not normally take your child on holiday in term time - it can be disruptive to your child's learning. A holiday in term time is NOT a parental right.

Please remember registration in school takes place twice each day at 9:00am and 1:00pm and is a legal requirement.

Please think about:

- arranging dental/medical appointments after school hours or around lunch times if unavoidable during the school day;
- coming to see us as soon as you are thinking about a holiday in term time;
- using our Friday teacher training days to plan a long weekend;
- using the day before or day after a school holiday to travel.



What are **exceptional circumstances**?

It is the decision of the headteacher as to what might constitute exceptional circumstances and each request for term time leave to be granted will be considered on an individual basis.

An exceptional circumstance may be ...

the holiday may be important for family relationships following a serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic event or situation;

evidence is provided by an employer that leave cannot be taken during school holidays without a significant consequence;

Forces personnel on leave from a foreign posting.

The headteacher will also look very carefully at the child's attendance record and should they have any concerns, if attendance is less than 96%, it is highly unlikely that the headteacher will agree to any further absence.