

## How will I know if my child's attendance is low?



Poor attendance is a sign of parental neglect. We monitor every child's attendance very closely and if your child's attendance falls below 90% then we will write to you and we will want medical evidence for each absence due to illness. If we do not get this evidence the absence will be unauthorised.

If your child's attendance falls below 90% your child will miss **nearly four weeks of the school year** which will have a big impact on their learning. This level of absence is called 'Persistent Absence' and we will write to you telling you that you will almost certainly be fined and also may have to attend court. We will require medical evidence for any absences at all. We may also refer you to Social Services team.

We want to work with you to help your child achieve their potential in school. We want every child can do their best and go on to be adults who can contribute to society by being well educated; good employees and improve their life chances.

**Only you as parents can ensure that your child is at school every day. Make it your number one priority!**

## Top tips for getting to school on time!

1. Parents; Set an appropriate bedtime and stick to it during the week.
2. Make sure your child gets to bed on time so you can get up fresh in the morning.
3. Put uniform, homework and PE kit ready the night before.
4. Set your alarm a little earlier than you think—say 10 minutes—it makes all the difference.
5. Put the breakfast things out ready for the morning—or even better come to our Breakfast Club from 7.45 a.m.
6. Set off in good time so you don't have to rush.
7. If you have younger children maybe make arrangements with another family to share taking the children to school.



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# Be here and be on time!



How good attendance and  
punctuality can help your  
child do well at school

## Why are good attendance and punctuality important?

Being at school every day is important to your child's education. They benefit from well planned sequences of lessons designed to ensure that they make the best possible progress. If they are frequently absent this learning is disrupted and makes it difficult for your child to keep up. Studies have shown that the children with poor attendance fail to reach their potential and struggle at secondary school and as an adult.



Being on time for school is a life skill that children need to learn as early as possible.



Being at school early means that they are ready for the start of lessons and alert and ready to learn. Children who arrive late are often tired and miss the very important explanations at the start of lessons by teachers. This can make children anxious and worried about their learning. It also disrupts other children's learning.

**Make the effort—get to school and be on time every day!**

## What is good attendance and punctuality?

### Attendance

Everyone that comes to Thornton is expected to aim for 97% attendance. We understand that everyone gets sick from time to time but minor coughs, colds or aches and pains should not stop your child from coming to school. Only the most serious or contagious illnesses should keep your child away from school such as vomiting (for 48 hours), high temperature, chicken pox etc. If your child does feel a little bit under the weather, bring them into school and let us know and we will monitor them. We have a school nurse who will assess them and if their condition deteriorates we will call you. We usually find that once they are here they quickly feel better once they are working and with their friends. If your child is really too poorly to come to school you must let us know first thing in the morning. You can either telephone or email. If the absence is going to last more than a day then we may require a doctor's note if your child has low attendance.



Mrs Pegg,  
School Nurse

**Frequent short absences are detrimental to your child's education.**

## What if my child is away from school?

### Punctuality

The bell goes for the start of the school day at 8.45 a.m. The last bell goes at 8.55 a.m. and that is when we take the register and order lunches. If you arrive after this then your child is late. If you are very late i.e. after 9.30 a.m. then your child is classed as absent. This then counts as an unauthorised absence.



**Extended Absence in Term Time**  
**Extended absence, such as holidays, will not be authorised under any circumstances in line with Government regulations.** Please see



the 'Leave in Term Time – Legal Guidance for Parents/ Carers' factsheet available on our website if you are unsure of the legal position taking children out of school during term time. If you do decide to take your child out of school during term time for any reason then **YOU MUST INFORM US OF THE DATE YOU WILL BE BACK OR YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PLACE IN SCHOOL.** We will also have to report them missing to the CMIE (Children Missing In Education) team at the local authority. The absence will be classed as unauthorised and you **will** be fined..