

Attendance

Attending school regularly is SO important, both academically and socially. Children who are absent from school miss learning, miss their friends and can find it difficult to catch up when they come back. 'Catching up' an absent child can also affect others in the class, as adult time has to be spent on that one child.

There are 175 days of school holiday a year, that is 48% of the year when you have the opportunity to take a holiday.

What if my child is poorly?

If your child is poorly, please let school know as soon as possible on the morning of their absence, giving the actual reason (sickness, tonsillitis... more detail than 'poorly' please) and every day that they are away. If we don't hear from you, we will contact you. Your child can still come to school with minor ailments, eg: a cough or a cold.

If your child becomes unwell in school, we will contact you and ask you to collect them.

Lateness

We believe that arriving at school on time is essential for children to fulfil their potential. Being on time to school ensures that children settle into the school day and prevents them from missing essential learning. Children who arrive on time are happier, less anxious and ready to learn. Poor punctuality not only has an impact on the learning of the child who is late for school, but also on the learning of all the other children in the class. Being on time means not missing out.

School starts at 8.45am

Leave of Absence

Aspire Academy Trust have updated our Attendance Policy and we now also have an Education Welfare Officer who is monitoring children's attendance across the trust.

The Policy can be found on our school website.

We do understand that there are times when your child will be absent from school, such as when they are ill. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, or if you sometimes find it difficult to get your child to school, for whatever reason, please let us know and we can work together to support your child to improve their attendance.

St Mawes School



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Aspire Academy Trust



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Since September 2013, changes to Government regulations and guidance means that schools should **no longer authorise leave of absence unless it is in exceptional circumstances**. All absences associated with a holiday (without exceptional circumstances) during term time will be marked as **unauthorised** within the register. Any parents known to have removed their child from school for the sole purpose of a holiday may be referred to the Local Authority and be issued with a penalty notice fine or referred to the Local Authority to consider prosecution.

Attendance	Learning missed over a year	Success
100%	0 days missed	Best chance of success!
95%	9.5 days of learning missed	
90%	19 days of learning missed	Less chance of success
85%	28.5 days of learning missed	Much less chance of success
80%	38 days of learning missed	Unlikely to fulfil academic potential

What do I need to do if I need to ask for a leave of absence for my child?

Parents wishing to apply for leave of absence during term time must apply in writing to the Head of School, filling in the form that is available on our website or from the office. This request must be at least a month before the planned leave. If a written request for leave of absence is not completed and the leave is taken without a request being submitted, the leave will not be considered by the Head of School and it will be marked as unauthorised. The Head of School will treat each application individually and may discuss with you the circumstances of the application before a decision is made.



What will we be doing?

Each week we will be monitoring the children's attendance for the year so far. During the Autumn Term (as it is such a short part of the school year), if attendance falls below 90% your child's teacher will contact you to discuss your child's attendance and work with you to improve it. By the end of the Autumn term anything below 93% will be addressed and the rest of the year will be 95%. If it doesn't improve, the Head of School will send you a letter confirming that your child's attendance hasn't improved. If there is no improvement again, you will be invited into school to discuss with the Head of School how we can work together to improve it. If attendance continues to be a concern at this point, you will be invited to a meeting with the Education Welfare Officer, so that we can look at other ways we can work together to improve attendance.

Aspire Academy Trust believes that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the best progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a child's attendance may fall below the threshold due to medical reasons. There are also times when a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for child due to 'exceptional circumstances'.

