



**100%**  
**Outstanding**

**95 - 99.9%**  
**Good**  
**85 - 95%**  
**Needs Improvement**

**Under 85%**  
**Problems with attendance?**  
**See the Headteacher**

# Attendance Facts

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 95% are more likely to gain 5 or more A-C GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.**

If your child has **90%** 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.

**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 years education!

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



**We can only teach those who attend**

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

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

**Lancastrian Infant School**  
**Orchard gardens,**  
**Chichester,**  
**West Sussex,**  
**PO19 1DG**  
**01243 782818**  
[office@lancastrian.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@lancastrian.w-sussex.sch.uk)

### Practicalities

- ☺ You need to make attendance a priority.
- ☺ It is the parents' responsibility to contact the school to report any absence.
- ☺ **Tel 01243 782818**
- ☺ **First Call System:** If a child is absent in the morning and the school has not received an explanation by 9.15am, we will telephone home.
- ☺ You should send/give a message into school explaining the reason for absence.
- ☺ Your child should return to school as soon as he/she is able to do so.
- ☺ If you have ANY concerns about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher.

## 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

If your child has a holiday of 1 week during term time and 10 days 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 year of their education.

Children who go on holiday for a week during the term, may miss out on more than one week of work. Before they go on holiday, they can be distracted and afterwards they may not be able to access learning because they have missed out on part of their learning journey.

## Case Studies

A parent contacted a school regarding problems that their child was having at play times. It became clear that the child was finding it difficult to make and keep friends because the child was having significant time off school.

A teacher complained that she had to give up her lunchtime to help a child having difficulties in maths. The child had been on a term time holiday and had therefore missed vital maths lessons.

A new child was finding it difficult to integrate into a class. He had missed end of term activities when "not much is done" but friendships and good memories are created. "Social" aspects of school life are an important part of the curriculum.

## Wherever possible please make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours



## Illness

If your child is likely to be off school for more than a couple of days, please contact the school as there maybe work your child is able to complete at home so they do not fall too far behind. The class teacher will be best able to advise parents on this matter.

## Be Safe

**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 child who misses on average one day of school each week throughout the academic year.

**Under 85% attendance =  
A PERSISTENT ABSENTEE**  
Absence from Learning request forms  
are available in the school office.

## 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.

Amendments have been made to the 2006 Education Regulations **removing references** to family holidays and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make it clear that Headteachers **may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## Unauthorised absence might include:

- ☺ Arriving after the register has closed at 9.05 a.m (from January 2017)
- ☺ All day dental/medical appointments
- ☺ Shopping trips
- ☺ Birthday/Christmas treats involving absence
- ☺ Visiting relatives
- ☺ Extra days tagged onto weekends
- ☺ Holidays taken during term time
- ☺ Holidays for pupils with low attendance
- ☺ Having sick relatives or siblings who are sick

**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 Local Authority can issue a fixed penalty notice (fine) for absence of 10 or more unauthorised sessions of absence in a 10 week period.**

**All Absence from Learning requests will be dealt with on an individual basis.**