

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Welcome to our first attendance update.

The following update is to ensure you as parents are clear on our expectations for attendance. At Annie Lennard Primary we know the impact regular attendance has on your child's learning and wellbeing; and that having good attendance is directly linked to raising achievement and develops skills for life and work. We ask that parents and carers support school by ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives ready to learn and on time.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

At present whole school attendance is running at 94.1%, this is lower than other schools nationally.

By law, all children of compulsory school age must receive a full-time education. You as the parent or carer are legally responsible for making sure your children attend on a regular basis. Schools follow clear guidance from the Department of Education as to what is acceptable and what is not in regard to absence.

Some examples of reasons that would not be accepted.

- Birthdays
- Shopping/ day trip
- Sibling is ill so all the family stay off school.
- Not having uniform ready to wear
- A holiday in term time
- Visiting ill relatives



If your child does not attend school on a regular basis, **you may be fined or prosecuted in court.**

The table below demonstrates how much school children miss if they are absent, and it is surprising how this adds up.

If your child misses...	That equals ...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days a year	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day a week	40 days a year	8 weeks a year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days a week	80 days a year	16 weeks a year	Over 5 years
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks a year	Over 8 years



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Persistent Absence – What is it?

A child who only attends school for 90% or less of the time is classed as a persistent absentee.

90% might sound ok, but Joe's story shows us why it's not. Joe is a child who attends school for 90% of the time. His parents think this is quite good. 90% attendance is the same as being absent from school for half a day every week. If Joe's attendance for all the years he went to school was 90% he would have missed 209 days of school, that's more than a whole school year!

Data for Autumn 1 shows that we had 36 pupils who had 90% or below attendance and classed as a persistent absentee, that is 20.67% of the pupils on roll. 3 of those pupils' families have been referred to Sandwell School Attendance Service. All pupils who have attendance below 90% for last term will have received a letter informing them, if attendance does not increase for these pupils, parents will be invited to a meeting to discuss why attendance is so low.

So why does persistent absence matter?

Missing school has a huge impact on how well a pupil gets on at school. The more school a child misses, the harder it is for them to catch up on learning and work they have missed, this impacts upon future learning as they have gaps.

What can I do?

1. **Be honest.** If you are having difficulties with your child not wanting to come or not getting ready to come, seek help, we will always try to help you.
2. **Engage.** Professionals work with families because they want to help make things better, but they can only help if families talk to them, meet with them and accept the help that is on offer.

Lateness = missed learning!

Minutes late per day	Number of days of learning lost over a year.
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days

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UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



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When should I keep my child away from School?

The poster above shows when you should keep your child at home. School will not be authorising absence for the following.

- Stomach ache
- Cough
- Cold
- Headache
- Tired due to late night/ disturbed sleep

Term Time LOA

School will not be authorising any requests for extended leave from school unless it is felt it is an exceptional circumstance. Parents must complete a Leave of Absence form detailing the reason for the leave request. You may be asked to attend a meeting to discuss your request, or you may receive a letter informing you of the Head's decision.

If the leave of absence is for a family holiday it will not be authorised and it will be referred to Sandwell School Attendance Service which may result in a penalty notice being issued.

Please be advised that parents who fail to ensure their child's regular attendance can be fined £60 (**per parent, per child**). If payment to the local authority is not made within 21 days (of a penalty being issued) the penalty will rise to £120 (**per parent, per child**).

Please be advised that if a leave of absence form is not completed and your child is absent from school for an extended period we will conduct home visits, and on return to school we will invite you in for a meeting to discuss the absence. Remember your children will tell us if they have been on holiday as they like to share their exciting news!

We would remind all parents that exceptional circumstances do not include.

- family holidays
- visiting relatives or friends
- attending events
- looking after family members
- birthdays
- shopping
- extended family weddings