



Attendance and safeguarding

You miss school, you miss out!



Icebreaker

What makes it hard for you as a parent to get your child or children to school every day?

What motivates and helps you to get your child to school despite these challenges?

Safeguarding and attendance

Schools have a responsibility to keep children safe in education

A key part of this is attendance

Schools have a responsibility to:

follow their safeguarding duty in promoting the welfare of children and investigating any unexplained absences



Just one day off can impact children's life chances



Research reveals:



every extra day missed from school can affect grades



Missing school for just a few days a year can damage a pupils' chances of gaining good GCSEs according to the DfE



that every extra day missed is associated with a lower chance of achieving 5 or more good GCSEs.



Benefits of school attendance

- ▶ Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it's essential.
- ▶ Going to school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects.
- ▶ As well as this, going to school helps to develop:
 - friendships
 - social skills
 - team values
 - life skills
 - cultural awareness
 - career pathways



Absence from school

- ▶ All schools must record details of pupils' attendance and absence at school. They do this at the beginning of morning and afternoon sessions meaning that each day your child receives two half day marks.
- ▶ If your child is going to be absent from school, for example for an unavoidable appointment, then you should let the school know as soon as possible. If your child has been absent due to an unexpected event such as bereavement or illness then you must also let the school know on the first day of absence in line with the school's attendance policy.
- ▶ The school will then record the absence. If you fail to tell the school as to why your child has not been present then the school will record that period of absence as being unauthorised.



What will school do?

First day absence, you will receive a call home

If no contact is made, you will receive a home visit

Third day of absence - every child will receive a safe and well check (home visit)

Early Help offered to support family to improve attendance

Continuous low attendance may result in legal action

Fixed penalty notices or court action



How to prevent your child from missing school

- having a routine from an early age and sticking to it
- making sure your child understands the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- making sure they understand the possible implications for themselves and you as a parent if they don't go to school
- taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- discussing any problems they may have at school and letting their teacher know about anything that is causing concern
- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments or holidays during term time



To avoid disrupting your child's education, you should

- ▶ arrange (as far as possible), appointments and outings:
 - after school hours
 - at weekends
 - during school holidays



Term time holidays

- ▶ Term time holidays have been increasing over the last number of years.
- ▶ Parents should ensure that their child does not miss school due to holiday plans.
- ▶ Schools will not agree to you taking your child on holiday during term time.
- ▶ All holidays are unauthorised absences.
- ▶ This may result in fixed penalty notices and/or a loss of school place

Fines

- ▶ The Local Authority can apply to the courts to issue fixed penalty notices to parents of children who aren't attending school regularly. In a magistrate's court, each parent could be fined up to £1,000 per child who misses school.



Children Missing in Education (CME)

A child becomes CME if:

- ▶ no contact can be made after five days
- ▶ If a child goes abroad, and school does not have an address and contact number
- ▶ safe and well calls cannot be made

School will have to make a referral to the CME team.



How can school help?

- ▶ Offer Early Help
- ▶ Work with parents/carers to support getting children into school
- ▶ Reduce barriers
- ▶ Signpost families to external organisations for help



What is our expected attendance

▶ 96%

Currently we are...

▶ 93.6%

The whole school community; pupils, parents and carers, teaching and support staff and governors, have a responsibility for ensuring good school attendance and have important roles to play.



What is good attendance?

ATTENDANCE	DESCRIPTION	APPROX. DAYS LOST PER YEAR	APPROX. WEEKS LOST PER YEAR
99-100%	Excellent	0-4	Less than 1
96-98%	Good	5-9	1-2
90-95%	Unsatisfactory	10-18	2-4
Below 90%	Persistent Absence	More than 19 Equivalent to 38 sessions	More than 4



Parents' / carers' responsibilities

The Education Act 1996 states that:

Parents/carers are required by law to ensure that their children receive an appropriate and fulltime education.



Springfield Primary Academy expects parents / carers will:

- ensure their children attend the school regularly and on time
- notify school on the first day of absence and on each subsequent day of absence, unless medical evidence is provided which defines the necessary length of absence.
- provide specific evidence for absences when attendance falls below 96%



Any questions?