

Attendance Matters

Fact Sheet

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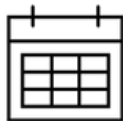
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Why is School Attendance So Important?

Regular school attendance is essential for your child's development and future success. Here are key reasons why attending school consistently is crucial:

- **Educational Growth:** School attendance allows children to learn and gain new knowledge.
- **Social Development:** It provides opportunities to have fun and make new friends.
- **Life Experiences:** It exposes children to new experiences and broadens their horizons.
- **Cultural Awareness:** School attendance fosters awareness of diverse cultures, religions, ethnicities, and gender differences.
- **Achievement and qualifications:** Regular attendance is linked to better academic performance and achievement.

Children who frequently miss school without valid reasons are more likely to become socially isolated, perform poorly in exams, and may even engage in anti-social behaviour.



Every School Day Counts

Missing school can quickly add up. For example, 90% attendance means your child misses half a day every week, totaling 19 days a year. Over a 13-year school career, this amounts to 247 days of missed education, equivalent to over a year.



Is it Ever OK for My Child to Be Off School?

Your child can be excused from school for the following valid reasons:

- Illness
- Medical or hospital appointments
- School-approved activities
- Exceptional circumstances
- Religious observances

As long as the school is informed and agrees with the reason, these are considered authorised absences.



Visions for School's & Education

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Fact Sheet Continued

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As a parent or carer, how can you make every day count?

- **Understand the Impact:** Recognize that missing school means missing out.
- **Plan Holidays Wisely:** Schedule family vacations outside of term time.
- **Manage Appointments:** Arrange non-urgent medical and dental appointments outside school hours whenever possible.
- **Establish Routines:** Set a consistent morning and evening routine to ensure punctuality.
- **Engage with School:** Be involved in your child's education and school activities.
- **Inform the School:** Notify the school promptly about absences due to illness or other reasons.
- **Seek Support:** Discuss any issues with school staff; they are there to help.



What if My Child is Anxious About School?

Children may sometimes feel anxious or worried about school. While keeping them home might seem like a solution, it doesn't address the root problem.

Contact the school to discuss your child's concerns. The school, along with various support services, can provide the necessary assistance to ensure your child feels safe and happy at school.

Avoid Taking Family Holidays During the School Term

You can show your commitment to your child's education by planning holidays outside of term time. Each day of school missed is a lost learning opportunity. Remember, there are over 175 days available each year for vacations that don't disrupt school.

