



Parent/Carer Bulletin

Let's work together to improve attendance

In this issue of our parent bulletin, we'd like to talk about the importance of attendance.

We know that getting your child to school every single day isn't always easy, and there may be times when challenges arise—whether it's illness, or other difficulties. However, it is important that everyone understands the difference between an occasional day of genuine sickness, versus a developing pattern of absence. Days off can soon add up and have profound impact on your child's learning. In fact, studies show that pupils who miss more school achieve lower GCSE results that can ultimately reduce future employment prospects.

If you are having issues getting your child into school, we are here to support you to find solutions that will help your child feel confident and ready to learn.

If you're facing any barriers to attendance, please reach out and let's fix them together.

What is good attendance?

Strong levels of attendance means being in school **at least 97%** - that's **184+ days out of the 190 days** in a whole academic year.

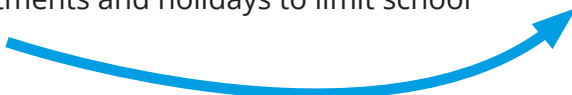
There are **175 non-term days each year** which give students plenty of time for holidays, appointments and other activities. Whenever possible, these non-school days should be used for appointments and holidays to limit school absence.

Parental responsibility for attendance

As a parent/carers, you will know that you have a legal responsibility to ensure that your child receives a suitable, full-time education - that means ensuring they arrive at school on time each morning, ready to learn.

Parents/carers of persistently absent children may face penalty notices (£60-£120 fines) and in extreme cases the local authority can even take legal action, including parenting orders or prosecution.

Of course, we never want to see this happen at Teesdale, and we'd far rather work with your family to fix the problem together first.



Things you can do to help:

As a parent/carer, we ask that you help us maintain high levels of attendance by:

- making sure you and your child understand the importance of school attendance and punctuality
- getting involved and showing interest in your child's schoolwork and activities
- talking to school if your child has any issues which could affect attendance levels
- making non-emergency appointments after school, weekends or during the school holidays
- not taking holidays during school term-time.

As a school we will always aim to support parents/carers

Where we have concerns about attendance, we will intervene early and maintain regular contact with you.

For example, if a pupil has attendance of **88%** or below... then if they attend school for the next **10 consecutive** school days, their attendance will be above 90% and they are no longer a persistently absent pupil.

Any absence **must** be followed up, as the pupil returns to school, form tutors will check in with pupils in their form groups.

We please ask that parents/carers call the school on each day of absence, most importantly the first day of absence.

Attendance information

There is a great deal of research showing how a child who has low attendance affects their academic achievements. **This in turn impacts their life chances.**

Children who are unwell will find learning difficult, but those who take time out for other reasons are missing out on valuable education.

If your child's attendance is below 90% it will be affecting their learning.

If you are aware that your child's attendance is low, please contact school to make an appointment so we can support you. You may also be contacted by school if your child's attendance is or falls **below 90%**. This is classed as being **persistently** absent.

Obviously, we don't want poorly children to come into school, however, we would encourage children to return to school as soon as they are able following a period of illness.

National information

- Students who **did not** achieve grades 4 to 9 in English and maths GCSEs in 2024 were absent 8.8% (that's just over 1.5 days per month) over Years 10 and 11.
- Generally, the more school days missed throughout their GCSE years, the lower the chances of gaining good exam grades at 4 and above.
- 83.7% of pupils with strong attendance achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to just 35.6% of students who were persistently absent.



Attendance contact information:

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