

## ATTENDANCE

### What the law says about school attendance

All children aged between 5 and 16 must get a suitable, full time education.

Parents are responsible for making sure this happens by registering their child at school.

Once your child is registered at a school it is your responsibility to ensure that your child attends school regularly. If your child does not attend regularly then the Local Authority may take legal action against you.

The Local Authority is responsible for making sure that parents fulfil their responsibility. Parents are responsible for making sure their children attend school regularly and promptly.

### What about unavoidable absence?

There may be times when your child is too sick to attend school. If this is the case please contact school by 9.30am on the first day of absence. If your child is absent for more than one day please keep school informed. The school has a duty to ensure your child is safe and we will contact you if we do not have a reason for your child's absence.

If your child needs a routine doctor's or dental appointment, try to make these out of school time.

Where this is not possible bring your child to school before/after the appointment. For all appointments please inform school and provide an appointment letter or card.

Give school as much notice as possible regarding absence. Absences can only be authorised by school.

### Why is it important for your child to attend school regularly?

If children do not attend school regularly they may not be able to keep up with school work.

Poor school attendance can affect your child's ability to make and keep friends.

Good attendance/punctuality patterns in Primary School will help your child later in life as it will prepare them for Secondary School, employment and everyday life events.

Research has shown that some young people who regularly miss school for no good reason may be drawn into anti-social behaviour or crime.

## What can parents do to help their child attend school

Start good habits early and ensure regular attendance at Primary School.

If your child tells you they do not want to go to school, don't keep them away from school. Find out what the problem is and speak to someone in school, we will be happy to help you. We have a Parent Support Advisor, Mrs Hitchens, who will be happy to listen to any problems/concerns you may have and offer her support.

Show your child that you think school is important. Encourage your child by showing interest in their school work. Try to attend school functions and events and only keep them at home if they are too poorly to attend.

It is important that you contact school on the first day of absence. We need to know that your child is safe.

Arrange family holidays out of school time. There are 190 statutory school days in a year which leaves 175 days for family holidays.

Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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