



Essential Information for Parents – Attendance

Pupil absence has become a big national issue with all schools being asked to closely monitor pupil attendance.

We have already advised you of the increased cost of Fixed Penalty Fines and the change to the way these are now issues:



Fixed Penalty Fines – are not just holidays, but any unauthorised absences that total 5 days (or 10 am/pm sessions) in any rolling 10 week period. This also includes late arrival after the register closes, at 9.30am.

However, absence due to illness has also become a national focus.

Absence due to illness: the Local Authority is now required to monitor when a child has **15 days of absence due to 'illness'**, whether continuous or cumulative. This is illness of any kind. This is to determine whether additional support for families is necessary where children have above average episodes of illness or have a chronic condition.



What does this mean for you?

We know that sometimes children cannot come to school because they are really unwell – and that's the right thing to do for them and everyone else in school. Medical advice is clear, however, that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend – for example if they have a cough or cold, without a temperature.

National data shows an increasing number of days lost to illness, especially mild illness – which is why the Department for Education is wanting to monitor this cause of absence.

Please ensure you:

- always inform us of any medical conditions which may affect your child's attendance
- only keep children off school when necessary. If you are unsure, but judge your child well enough to attend school in the morning, we will always contact you if their symptoms worsen later in the day and they need collecting.

Please note:

- for sickness and diarrhoea, there is **always a 48 hour exclusion period** – from the last bout of illness. This is a Public Health requirement, to reduce transmission.
- **medical appointments** are classed as authorised absences
- please make appointments outside of school time whenever possible
- if your child attends a **medical appointment during the school day**, please provide evidence from the doctor, dentist, hospital etc, whenever possible.

I am really pleased to report that attendance at our school is very good – thank you for your ongoing support.

However, if you experience issues that may impact your child's/children's absence or punctuality, please speak to us... before it reaches the point at which we need to speak to you.



Please be aware that our office staff are required to find out the reason for children's absence, if you have not already informed us. We are also required to record and report data to the Department for Education and the Local Authority.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact the school office.

Thank you,
Mrs B Haigh
Headteacher