

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

Children only get one chance at school and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending regularly. If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect a child's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.

Setting a good attendance pattern from an early age will also help your child later on in life.

What is the impact of poor attendance on children?

Research shows that children who are not in school regularly are:

- More likely to become involved in, or become a victim of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- More likely to fall behind due to the strong link between attendance and achieving good school results.
- Less Likely to achieve 5 good GCSEs (grade 9-5) compared with those with less than 8 days absences.
- More likely to have increased levels of anxiety due to inconsistencies and uncertainty in their routine.
- More likely to have low self-esteem due to finding learning increasingly hard and having missed out on key information.

It all adds up!

Attending school everyday gives your child the best chance of success. **100%**

Attending 4.5 days every week = 4 weeks missed learning per year **90%**

Attending 4 days a week = 8 weeks missed learning per year. **80%**

Attending 3.5 days a week = 12 weeks missed learning per year. **70%**



80% attendance adds up to missing 2 full years of education over their school life!

Can they afford to keep missing out?

Every Minute Counts!

Being late for school reduces learning time.

5 minutes late everyday = 3 days missed learning per year.

15 minutes late every day = 9 days of missed learning every year.

Arriving late can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class.



Attendance Leaflet

Every Day Counts



Information for parents and carers

What the law says

As a parent, ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without good reason is an offence. This may result in a referral to the local authority to issue penalty notices, fines and eventually prosecution in court.



What the Government says

The Government states that attendance figures of 90% or less is classed as 'persistently absent'.

The Government expects that in order for a child to reach their full potential, they must attend school for a minimum of 96% of the year.

At Forest View we will notify you if your child's attendance falls below 96% and if it needs to improve to prevent further action from being taken. This may involve working with Gloucestershire Local Authority, the local Early Help Team or Social Care.

What happens if your child does not attend school regularly?

If your child fails to attend school regularly—even if they miss school without you knowing—the local authority may take legal action against you.

Forest View will notify you if your child's attendance level is a concern and look to work with you to put in place steps to improve it. If attendance continues to require improvement or is below 90% then the school may initiate an attendance improvement meeting (AIM).

The AIM is the start of a legal process. It is important that you engage with the school and work with the support provided to meet the agreed targets. These targets will be reviewed and progress evaluated at a review meeting. If insufficient progress is made then you may be referred to the local authority for legal intervention.

If your child's attendance is low then you run the risk of being issued with a penalty notice or being prosecuted in court. If this happens:

- Parents can be fined up to £2500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly.
- Magistrates can also impose a Parenting Order, which means that the parent has to attend a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

Illness Guidance

Being ill may prevent your child from coming to school, but, if they can get out of bed and play or enjoy TV/video games, they should be in school.

If you do feel that your child is too ill to come to school then you should notify the school immediately and then on everyday that they will be off school for. Parents should notify the school of any absence by 9.30am on the day of the absence.

If your child's attendance is already poor or if they are off for a prolonged period due to illness then we may ask that you provide a doctor's certificate to verify absences.

Leave of Absence and Holiday Requests

The Government states that leave of absence is not permitted during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Taking leave of absence without prior consent will result in unauthorised absence. The school will always refer any unauthorised leave of absence that takes place over 5 school days or more to the local authority so that a penalty notice can be issued.

Family holidays will very rarely be considered as 'exceptional circumstances'. The school will treat any request for leave in the same way that an employer would when considering compassionate leave.

Full details of the school's attendance procedures can be viewed in the attendance policy which can be found on our website.