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Maintained by North Yorkshire County Council

**Head Teacher**

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## Attendance Matters

### Why is attendance at school important?

School education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Research clearly demonstrates the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment. We aim to ensure that all children attend school regularly and on time wherever possible to ensure that they are able to make the most of the educational experiences offered at our school.

### What is the expected attendance for primary school children?

The Government expect that pupils attend school for **at least 96%** of the school year. We understand that sometimes pupils are too sick to attend school and the 96% target allows for this. In an ideal world, we would want children to attend 100% of the time!

### Missed days at school add up

Every day a child does not attend school drops their attendance by approximately 0.5%. For example, 10 days missed per year achieves an attendance of 94.74%.

Attendance	Rating	Effective Loss of Learning per year
96%-100%	Excellent	Up to 8 days
92%-95%	Careful	Up to 3 weeks per year
85% - 91%	Improvement Needed	3 to 6 weeks per year
Less than 85%	Unacceptable	In excess of 6 weeks per year

### What happens if my child's attendance is below 96%?

If your child is persistently absent a number of things may happen depending upon the reasons for absence and your child's previous attendance record. As outlined in the school's attendance policy, you will receive:

- a warning letter to inform you that your child's attendance is between 91% and 96%
- an invitation to an attendance meeting if your child's attendance falls below 90%, actions to improve attendance will be discussed
- in very serious cases, parents may be prosecuted or referred to North Yorkshire's Early Help Team.

**At each stage, your child's attendance will be closely monitored and you may be asked to provide medical proof of absences.**

**Growing Learners for Life**

### Term-time holidays

Requests for term-time holidays have been on the increase but now that Pandemic disrupted holidays are behind us, we will only be authorising holidays during term-time in **exceptional circumstances**. You should apply to the school as far in advance as possible and at least 6 weeks before the first date of the period of leave being requested. **If you go on a holiday without the authorisation of the head teacher, you may be liable to pay a fine and/or be prosecuted for non-attendance.**

### 175 non-school days a year

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, dentist visits and other appointments.

**Catching up on missed lessons impacts the pupil, the teacher and other pupils in that class.**

### Punctuality

If you have ever been late for a meeting or event then you will understand how unsettling that can feel. Children, who are frequently late, often report that they find it embarrassing and unsettling. As soon as children arrive at school, learning begins. Any children, who arrive late, have to start their day trying to catch up.

If your child is late every day by	Your child will lose	Or missed
5 minutes	3.5 days from school	18 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	50 lessons

### People who can help



Mrs Oswald is responsible for monitoring attendance daily. If your child is absent you must contact the school on the morning of the absence. Mrs Oswald has a safeguarding duty to follow up on any absences not reported.



Mrs Smith, our Pastoral Lead is responsible for supporting pupil wellbeing. If your child is struggling with attendance, we can offer support to help improve it.



Mr Russell is responsible for monitoring attendance trends and inviting parents in for a meeting if attendance falls below 91%.