



The importance of good attendance

There is a clear and proven link between attendance and achievement. The pupils with the highest attainment have higher rates of attendance than those achieving lower grades. Pupils who miss a substantial amount of school, fall behind their peers, and struggle to catch up as most of the work they miss is never made up, which can lead to big gaps in their learning.

- *Attendance of 97%+ is equivalent to 5 days lost. These children have every chance of making strong progress in school.*
- *Attendance of 95% is equivalent to 10 days lost. These children generally have strong attendance and are well-placed to make good progress in school.*
- *Attendance of 90% is equivalent to 19 days lost - a month of school. It will be difficult for them to achieve their best.*
- *Attendance of 85% is equivalent to 29 days lost - six school weeks. There is a real risk that their progress will be hindered. Absence below 90% is considered to be persistent absenteeism.*
- *Attendance of 80% is equivalent to 38 days lost - a whole year in five years. These children are not benefitting from their right to be educated.*

Did you know?

- Attendance is monitored (daily) by the school and BCP
- The national expectation is that children's attendance will be 95% or above (in Initio we are ambitious for all and the expectation is 96%)
- The threshold at which penalties must be considered is any 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks (2 sessions = 1 day)
- Lateness can also contribute towards unauthorised absence:
The register is open between 8:45-8:55 and children are expected to arrive between these times
Arrival between 8:55-9:15 is considered late (late mark in register)
After 9:15 is recorded as an unauthorised absence (this counts towards the 10 sessions)

For information

Headteachers have **no discretion** to grant a leave of absence during term time unless there are **genuinely exceptional circumstances**.

The following situations **might** be considered examples of '**exceptional circumstances**'.

- Return of parent from active service (Forces);
- Death or serious illness of a parent, step-parent or sibling;
- Young Carers;
- Disability or respite leave;
- Periods of obligatory religious observance;
- Approved public performances (with clear supporting evidence).

The following are examples of situations which **would not** typically be considered as exceptional:

- Family holiday/cheaper holiday dates;
- Educational visits arranged by family members during school time;
- Attendance at a wedding or christening of an extended family member or friend;
- Visiting relatives either abroad or in the UK;
- Limitations on parents / carers leave' entitlement or dates; parents / carers' profession or place of work making it difficult to coincide school and work holidays;
- A family member going for medical treatment abroad.