

Why we need good attendance at Catshill Middle School.



'There is a clear link between absence and attainment. As levels of pupil absences increase, the proportion of pupils reaching the expected levels of attainment at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, decreases.'

The Facts About Attendance

RESEARCH SHOWS:

- 90% of persistent non-attenders DO NOT achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- Employers want to recruit people who are reliable and have attended school regularly.
- Many employers ask for information about students' punctuality and attendance at school.
- Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

Every Day and Every Minute Counts!

Attendance	Impact on Attendance	Hours of Lessons Lost	Minutes Late each day	School Days Lost
100%	0 Days Lost	0 Hours Lost	5 Minutes	3.5 Days Lost
95%	9 Days Lost	45 Hours Lost	10 Minutes	7 Days Lost
90%	19 Days Lost	95 Hours Lost	15 Minutes	10.5 Days Lost
85%	28 Days Lost	140 Hours Lost	20 Minutes	14 Days Lost
80%	38 Days Lost	190 Hours Lost	25 Minutes	17.5 Days Lost
75%	46 Days Lost	230 Hours Lost	30 Minutes	21 Days Lost

“A child who misses one day of school per week misses the equivalent of two years of their school life.”

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- The Education Act 1996 states that parents and carers must ensure that all children of compulsory school age receive a full-time education that is suitable for their age, ability and aptitude and special educational needs.
- The school will contact you either by phone or a house visit during any period of absence to discuss your child's absence and how we can get them back to education in the quickest time possible.
- If your child's attendance does not improve then we have a statutory duty to consider legal action to enforce school attendance. This may ultimately involve the **removal of benefits**, issuing of a **penalty notice of up to £120** or possible prosecution under the education act (441) upto **£2500**, a **prison sentence** and a Court administered **Parenting order**.
- Mr Essenhigh may authorise absence depending on his belief that the reason given for absence by the parent/carer is justifiable and/or genuine.
- Children will be rewarded with house points, prizes and additional opportunities for excellent attendance.

Education is not an option—it is compulsory!

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME:

School holiday dates are published well in advance and parents are expected to plan and take their family holidays at this time so as not to disrupt their children's education.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence unless written permission has been given by the Headteacher due to exceptional circumstances. **Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.**

PUNCTUALITY

The school, by law, has to take a register of pupils first thing in the morning and the afternoon. If a pupil is late but the register is still open they are marked as late. If a pupil arrives late without a satisfactory explanation and the register is closed, it may be classed as an unauthorised absence. This may lead to **legal action** for not ensuring regular and punctual school attendance. **As an example, if a child arrives late at school 15 minutes late each day they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year!**

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Establish a good routine in the morning and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time—not late.
- Try to arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness.
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school and homework.
- Attend all parents evenings and school events where possible.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school. Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school—staff are here to help and will always be supportive.

Attendance Facts

If your child attends school **100%** they will be able to make the best of all opportunities available to them.

Children who attend above **95%** are more likely to gain 5 or more 9-5 GCSE or equivalent qualifications.

If your child has 90% attendance over the whole 11 years at school, they will have missed one year's education by the time they finish High School.

90% attendance = missing 19 days of school in one year.

Missing 19 days a year also means dropping on average one GCSE grade.

Children with less than 85% attendance are unlikely to gain 5 or more 9-5 GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

80% attendance = missing 38 days of school in one year.

If your child has 80% attendance over the whole 11 years at school, they will miss **TWO** years of education.

Poor attendance like this will have a serious impact on Education and Life Chances