

Ambitions of Good Attendance

Making a Strong Start

The beginning of any academic year is important for all children as they settle into their new classes, make new friends and meet new teachers; so making and establishing good routines right from the first day could have a significant impact for the rest of the academic year. Although children may experience a mixture of nervousness and excitement, it is important that they are supported to ensure they attend school on time, every day.



We recognise the impact good attendance can have on your children and every day, our schools work hard with families to make a difference to their lives. We value the partnership we have with all our families to promote the positive benefits of school so that children's future life chances are fulfilled.

Good attendance can support your child in many ways....

Feel a sense of belonging and being part of a community

Experiencing positive relationships are important for children so attending school each day can help them to make friends and form bonds with their peers and staff who support them, giving them purpose and feeling a sense of belonging. Having positive relationships can also help them to feel safe and cared for within the school and class community.

Stronger friendships and improved social networks

Children who attend school everyday are more secure within their social networks as they have been able to maintain positive bonds through seeing their friends every day. Spending time with their friends can help children to feel more included and help make strong connections with their peers.

Improved Confidence and Self Belief

Confident children believe in themselves and build resilience when faced with new challenges; thus, reducing anxiety and uncertainty. Children who are more confident also have a greater motivation to stretch themselves and have more perseverance to achieve their life goals.

Increased Academic Outcomes

Attending school every day enables children to receive consistently any support that they require to make progress and achieve the best qualifications.

How Parents Can Help

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so that your child is ready and prepared for the day ahead.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside of school hours when possible.
- 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 work and friends.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Attend parents' evenings and school events.
- Always help school staff in their efforts to offering your child the best support.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with school staff – they are always there to help and be supportive.



Every School Day Counts

100%	0 days absent	Perfect
99%	Equates to 2 days absent each year	Excellent
97%	Equates to 5 days absent each year	Good
95%	Equates to 10 days absent each year	Slight Concern
90%	Equates to 20 days absent each year	Concerned (Persistent Absent)
85%	Equates to 30 days absent each year	Very Concerned

Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost

(figures above are calculated over a school year)

NEW NATIONAL GUIDANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 2024

Whilst we recognise the importance and benefits to achieving good attendance, the barriers to accessing school can be varied and complex. From 1 September, there is new guidance that all schools must follow in order to secure good attendance for every child and includes working closely with families to identify the causes of low attendance and resolve to remove any barriers.

All Nexus MAT schools expect high attendance of their pupils and create a culture where children feel a sense of belonging and develop strong relationships. However, they also closely monitor the attendance of all pupils and alert parents when concerns are raised so that they can work together to improve their child's attendance. If your child misses school without a good reason, schools can intervene and each of the local authorities, within which the Nexus MAT schools are situated, have outlined new 'penalty notice fines' which will become effective from 1 September 2024.

Penalty Notices

When parents have failed to ensure their child regularly attend the school where they are registered, a penalty notice can be issued to each parent who has allowed the absence.

Fines for parents per child - *Penalty notices issued to parents are 'per child' for each child's absence from school. Therefore, if for example a family of three children, will be issued with three separate penalty notices.*

Five Consecutive Days Absence - *As well as absences for holidays, penalty notices can also be issued for unauthorised term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.*

Ten sessions of unauthorised absence in a ten-week period - *If your child has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a ten-week period (a day counts as 2 sessions), then penalty notice fines will be considered to be issued by the school. The ten-week period can go across different terms or school years.*

The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

