



Poor attendance can have a negative impact upon your child's:

- ➡ Learning
- ➡ Friendships
- ➡ Self-esteem and confidence

## ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE INFORMATION

At Blewbury School, your child's attendance is important to us to ensure they achieve their full potential. Did you know that a child who misses school for one day a week will miss the equivalent of two years of schooling, and 90% of children whose absence falls below 85% fail to achieve 5 or more good grades at GCSE and a third of those children do not pass any GCSEs at all? Regular attendance at school really does impact on your child's future!

Last year our overall attendance figure for our school was 95.7% which is too low. We have set ourselves the target of getting a minimum of 97% this year and we need your help to achieve this.

What you can do to help:

1) If your child says they are feeling unwell, consider the following:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that can be passed on to other children and adults?
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition?

The NHS has some excellent guidance about whether to keep your child from school, which can be found here: <https://www.nhs/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>

3) Please try to make any non-emergency/non-specialist appointments outside of school hours.

2) Remember there are 175 NON SCHOOL DAYS every year to spend on visits, holidays, appointments, quality family time.

Please remember holidays are not permitted in term-time. If you require time off in exceptional circumstances, this must be requested by completing an 'Request for Absence During Term Time' form – a new version of this is attached.

If you follow the above, this will help to keep your child's attendance as high as possible.

Attendance expectations:

No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	97%	94%	90%	85%	80%
<b>Very Good</b>		<b>Worrying</b>		<b>Serious Concern</b>	
Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start!		Less chance of success. Makes it harder for your child to make progress.		Your child will find it very difficult to make progress. May result in court action!	

Attendance is now monitored very closely, and you will be informed if your child's attendance falls below our school target of 97%.

Any child's attendance that drops below 95% is a concern to us. If your child's attendance is becoming a concern you will receive an invitation to a meeting so that we can offer support to improve your child's attendance.

In most cases this can be resolved during this meeting, however, if your child's attendance continues to be a concern and drops below 90%, we will offer a parenting contract. These can be a useful tool in identifying and focusing on the issues behind poor attendance and through working in partnership, help to address these issues.

More information on parenting contracts can be found here;  
[http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/7618/1/QS%20ParentCon2\\_6.5.pdf](http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/7618/1/QS%20ParentCon2_6.5.pdf)

### LATE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

When your child arrives late at school, they miss out on important information. The teacher then has to take time from the rest of the class to settle them in.

Your child may also feel embarrassed at entering the classroom late and will miss important social interaction with friends before school

Minutes late every day during the school year	Is the equivalent of missing:
5 Minutes	3.4 Days a year
10 Minutes	6.9 Days a year
15 Minutes	10.3 Days a year
20 Minutes	13.8 Days a year
30 Minutes	20.7 Days a year

Frequent lateness can add up to a considerable amount of learning lost, and can disadvantage your child. Teaching punctuality will help their independence and the importance of being on time for work in later life.

**School begins at 8:45. Please help your child to be punctual.**

Because of the impact on your child's learning, we will also closely monitor late arrival. School is open from 8.30 a.m. each day, and work is provided to ensure children are growing their brains immediately as they arrive in school. This work is essential for consolidation of

skills before beginning lessons at 8.45 a.m. This is also a very sociable time when children can greet friends and catch up with one another. The impact on children who regularly miss this opportunity is noticeable both in their behaviour and their learning.

Help your child to have the best start to their day by encouraging them to be in school on time ready to learn, having had good quality sleep and a wholesome breakfast. We can offer breakfast club places if needed – you will find booking forms on the school website. Please speak to us if you are having difficulty arriving at school by 8.45 a.m.

## WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOL

So, if you are worried about your child's attendance, or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can read our full attendance policy on the school website.