

Every Day Counts...
Your child's attendance matters!

Should my child stay home from school?



Parents often ask us if their child should be in school. If your child has no temperature but has a cough, cold, headache, earache then as with adults, medical advice is to give them paracetamol (calpol etc) and send them to school. We will always contact you if your child's condition worsens or if we believe it is contagious such as chicken pox, vomiting etc

Preventing or minimizing illnesses -- it can be done!

One way to lessen the number of days your child needs to stay home is to prevent the illness in the first place.

Some hygiene reminders for your children -

- Not to share food
- Not to share drinks
- Not to share clothing
- To throw away used tissues
- To wash hands frequently using soap or hand sanitizer



Catch it, Bin it, Kill it



There are two attendance sessions every day and missing school for a whole day counts as two absences so...



Medical/Dental/Optician appointments

All medical and dental appointments must be made outside of school hours. They will not be authorised. The only exception to this is an emergency appointment or an appointment to see a specialist.

Please be aware that the absence or illness of a family member (sister, brother or parent) should NOT affect the attendance of your child. If the family member has an appointment (particularly at the beginning or end of the school day) arrangements should be made to ensure that the other sibling is either dropped off or collected from school on time.

Lack of Sleep

If your child has been ill in the night and has had broken sleep please consider sending them into school in the afternoon with a note. Your child may feel better and they will have the chance to join with their friends and find out about homework and learning missed.

So what impact can this have?

Lisa is in Year 1 and her attendance rate at school is always around 90%. Lisa and her family think this is pretty good!



If Lisa continues to attend for only 90% of the time, then over five years she will miss the equivalent of about one-half of a school year

90% attendance for Lisa = 20 days absence = 4 weeks of school missed

- 2 days sore throat - Sept
- 5 days with cold and cough- Dec
- 2 days of dental appt 6 month check up
- 1 day taken off at the end of term to go xmas shopping
- 1 day upset stomach - March
- 2 days high fever – virus - June
- 5 days authorised leave of absence for holiday
- 1 day birthday treat
- 1 days two doctors appts in the morning

Did you know that of pupils who miss between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of school, only 35 per cent manage to go on and achieve five A* to C GCSEs including English and maths. This compares to 73 per cent of pupils with over 95 per cent attendance. DfE 2011

Our school policy on illness is based on direct advice & guidance from the Department for Education. The DfE rule of thumb is 'whether the ailment would keep parents and teachers away from work?'. Please visit the website if you would like further details <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a0010002/illness-pupils-missing-school-for-medical-reasons-good-practice-guidance>

There is also advice for parents and carers on there too!

Please Note: regulations for schools give the headteacher the right to consider whether to accept the parent/ carers position with regard to medical absence – the headteacher may decide not to authorise these absences.