



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS
A Parent's Guide





WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT -

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- ✓ To learn.
- ✓ To have fun.
- ✓ To make new friends.
- ✓ To experience new things in life.
- ✓ To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- ✓ To achieve.
- ✓ To gain qualifications.
- ✓ To develop new skills.
- ✓ To build confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ To have the best possible start in life.



**Miss School -
Miss Out!!**



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.



WHAT THE LAW SAYS –

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on parents to ensure that their child of compulsory school age receives a suitable education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, for example home education.

If a child does not attend school regularly, parents can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice by the local authority for their child's non-attendance. The penalty is currently £60 and if this is not paid within 21 days rises to £120. If still not paid after 28 days, parents may be taken to Court.

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines a parent widely and includes:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who has care of a child or young person i.e. lives with and looks after the child.

Therefore, all of these persons have the duty to ensure a child of compulsory school age receives a suitable education.



Education is not an option – it's compulsory.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS –



You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child or young person who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work.

In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence.



Avoid taking family holidays during the school term.



HOW PARENTS CAN HELP –

- ✓ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ✓ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- ✓ Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- ✓ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- ✓ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness
- ✓ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- ✓ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ✓ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).
- ✓ Attend parent evenings and school events.
- ✓ 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 there to help and will be supportive.



Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.
Attendance percentages can be misleading.

365 days in a year					
190 school days					175 non-school days
School target/ expectation	19 days absence	29 days absence Half a term missed	38 days absence	47 days of absence	These can be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family time • Visits • Holidays • Shopping • Medical appointments
	171 days of education	161 days of education			
96%-100% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
GOOD Best chance of success	WORRYING Less chance of success Makes it harder to progress		SERIOUS CONCERN Substantial negative impact on chance of success and progress		

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 very important school weeks!



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.



DON'T BE LATE!!

Lessons and learning at The Coppice begin immediately, at the very start of the school day (at 8.45 am) with our Early Bird activities. It is important that children do not miss this key learning.

In addition, when children arrive late:

- They may feel awkward arriving to the classroom when everyone else is settled.
- They miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability.
- It disrupts the entire class and the teacher – everyone's education is compromised.

Further lateness may result in you being served with a Penalty Notice or a summons to court. Parents have a duty to ensure their child's regular and prompt attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996.

Bear in mind:

- 5 minutes late every day adds up to 3 days lost each year
- 10 minutes adds up to 6 days lost each year
- 15 minutes adds up to 10 days lost each year
- 20 minutes adds up to 13 days lost each year
- 30 minutes adds up to 19 days lost each year