



# WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE AND THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE

## Why is School Attendance Important?

Pupils need to attend school regularly to take full advantage of the educational opportunities open to them. Low attendance at school can impact on future education and career opportunities. Those with low attendance at school can be at a higher chance of being drawn into anti-social behaviour, committing crimes or becoming the victim of crimes.

School attendance is also important for your child's wellbeing and their wider development.

Each school has their own expectation of attendance for it's pupils; however, good attendance is usually considered to be 95% or above.

## School Attendance and The Law

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure their children go to school regularly and on time. Failure to do this may result in

prosecution at the magistrates court, a parenting order from the courts, a penalty notice or a community order.

Family holidays should not be taken during term time. Families may be issued penalty notices for term time holidays.

Statutory guidance refers to parents and states that parents include:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day to day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after the child)

## What are Authorised Reasons for Absence?

- Illness
- A medical or dental appointment if it is not possible to make an appointment out of school hours.

# WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE AND THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE (CONTINUED)



- Taking part in a recognised religious event on the day of the religious event only
- The death of a close family member
- An interview with a prospective employer, college or other school
- Work experience

## What will Happen if my Child's Attendance Drops?

Your child's school should send you a letter if they become concerned regarding their attendance to school.

If concerns continue, you will be invited to an informal meeting to discuss attendance and required support for your child.

If attendance remains a concern following this informal meeting, you may be invited to a formal attendance meeting where an attendance contract is made between yourself and the school.

There will be a set review period

and if concerns continue your child's school may refer to the local authority's attendance support team for prosecution.

All decisions regarding prosecution take into account the circumstances for the individual child and family.

## How can I Support my Child's Attendance?

- Ensure your child's reasons for not going to school are genuine
- Take holidays during the school breaks
- Book medical appointments outside of school hours
- Support your child's journey to school where possible
- Take an interest in your child's education, attend parents'/carers' evenings and other events
- Speak to your child and their school, working together to overcome any barriers or worries