

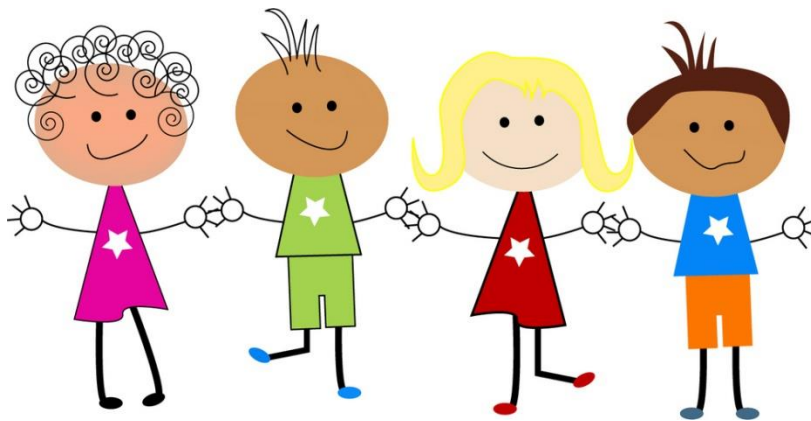
CHRIST CHURCH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Good Attendance =

- ✓ GOOD PROGRESS
- ✓ GOOD FRIENDSHIPS
- ✓ BETTER LIFE CHANCES



“Make every day count!”

There is a direct link between good attendance and good results. Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve their full potential.

There are two types of pupil absence:

ACCEPTABLE & AUTHORISED (approved by school)

- ✓ Genuine illness
- ✓ Medical/dental appointments (*if they cannot be made outside of school hours*)
- ✓ Days set aside for religious observance

UNACCEPTABLE & UNAUTHORISED (not approved)

- ✗ Illness of a sibling / looking after a sibling or relative
- ✗ Birthday or birthday outing
- ✗ Shopping trip
- ✗ Hair appointment
- ✗ Visiting friends or relatives
- ✗ Term-time holiday, preparing or travelling for a holiday, or resting after a holiday
- ✗ Over-sleeping / being tired

A whole year has 365 days. A school year has only 190 days.
That leaves 175 days to spend with the family, go on visits and holidays, attend appointments, go shopping etc.

Children are expected to attend the school for the full 190 days of the academic year, unless there is a **good reason** for absence.

Of course, the best place for children who are seriously unwell is at home. However, it is amazing how quickly days-off school can add up over a year...

1 WEEK ABSENCE = 97.4% attendance

2 WEEK ABSENCE = 94.7%

3 WEEK ABSENCE = 92.2%

4 WEEK ABSENCE = 89.7%

Attendance for every individual pupil is monitored by school.

This is regardless of whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Excellent attendance | 99 – 100% |
| Good attendance | 97 – 98.9% |
| Satisfactory attendance | 95 – 96.9% |
| Attendance needs to improve | 93 – 94.9% |
| At risk of becoming persistent absentee | 90 – 92.9% |
| Persistent Absentee | Below 90% |

REMEMBER: Going to school every day means....

- ☺ Better life chances
- ☺ Lasting friendships
- ☺ Exciting learning opportunities
- ☺ Achieving your potential
- ☺ Developing a love of learning



IMPACT OF POOR ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 80% | Equivalent of 1 day per week | This adds up to almost two full years of absence between Y1 & Y11. It is almost impossible for children to keep up with their learning. The impact on their life chances is significant. |
| 85% | 29 days absence per year | These pupils are missing 6 weeks of school per year. It is very difficult for them to keep up with their peers and achieve their best. |
| 90% | 19 days absence per year | These pupils are missing a month of school per year. They are likely to fall behind in their learning, and it is difficult for them to achieve their best. |
| 95% | Less than 10 days absence over the year | Pupils with this attendance are likely to achieve their target levels. |
| 96%+ | Less than 6 days absence | Pupils with this attendance should easily achieve the best they can! |

Our aim is for every child to achieve **GOOD** attendance!
We have a set a whole-school target of **96%** attendance.

To help your child achieve good attendance, we would like you to:

- 🕒 Make sure your child arrives on time. **School starts at 8.55am.**
- 📞 Telephone the school promptly to report if your child is going to be absent. You can leave an absence message on our phone system. Please leave your child's name, class and reason for absence. We will then decide whether to authorize the absence or not.
- 🕒 Bring your child to school for the afternoon session if your child starts to feel better as the day progresses. *N.B. Unfortunately, children who have had a stomach upset must be kept off for 48hrs to avoid other children becoming ill.*
- 🕒 Arrange medical and dental appointments outside of school hours, where possible.
- 🕒 **Book holidays during school holidays, not during term-time.**
- 🕒 Do not allow your child to have time off unless it is really necessary.
- 🕒 Discuss with the school, at the earliest opportunity, any issues that might affect your child's attendance; we might be able to offer support and advice or sign-post you to a relevant local service.

School will encourage and recognise good attendance, but ultimately it is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure their children attend school regularly and on time.

Failure to do so is an offence under Section 444-1 of the Education Act 1996.



PROCEDURE for MONITORING ATTENDANCE & ADDRESSING CONCERNS

School monitors **all** pupil attendance on a half-termly basis.



Parents will receive a termly attendance report that compares their child's attendance to the whole-school average and to the school attendance bands.



If the school has concerns about your child's attendance, you will receive a letter requesting that you improve your child's attendance over the coming term.



If the school has significant concerns about your child's attendance, we will write to you and request that you attend a meeting to discuss the reasons for poor attendance.



If there are concerns about high-absence due to **regular illness** (but not due to a known medical condition), the school will request your consent for involvement from the Healthy Families Team (School Nurse).

If there are frequent **unauthorised absences** (e.g. *due to term time holidays or no valid reason being given by parents*) this might result in the school requesting a fixed-penalty notice being issued.



If high absence continues, the school can make a referral to the NCC Attendance Team via Early Help, which does not require parental consent. They will work with parents to improve attendance and have the authority to start legal proceedings if a parent continues to neglect their duty to ensure regular attendance at school. Please be aware that this can result in a court case.

**PLEASE HELP US TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE
ACROSS THE WHOLE SCHOOL.**