

MOMENTS MATTER,

ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Our school day starts at **8.55am** and school finishes at **15:30pm**

Children are welcomed onto the school yard from **8:45am** and gates close at **8.55am**. Children arriving after 8.55am are registered as **LATE**. Children arriving after **9.25am** will receive an unauthorised absence mark on their register.

We do expect pupils to arrive and to be collected punctually at the start and end of each day.

It is vital that pupils attend school, on time, every day in order to gain the greatest benefit from their education and reach their full potential.

We aim for all of our pupils to achieve 97% and above attendance in school and for our whole school attendance to be 97%, which is above the national average of 96%. As parent/carers, you have a legal obligation to ensure your child attends and remains in school. We do appreciate that there are times when children cannot attend school due to illness or other circumstances.

Frequently Asked Questions about Attendance.

Q. What is a good attendance percentage?

A: Ideally, we would like pupil's attendance to be as close to 100% as possible but understand that at times, we all get sick. The national average attendance rate for school attendance is 96% so anything above this would be classed as good attendance.

Q. What is poor attendance?

A. Anything below 96% attendance is worrying as your child has less chance of success and reaching their full potential. It makes it harder for your child to progress if they are missing key learning opportunities.

Q. What will happen if my child's attendance falls below 96%?

A. We monitor pupil's attendance every week, every term and every year. If your child's attendance becomes a concern, we will send you a letter informing you of their attendance and that we are monitoring it. We will work with you to support you in improving your child's attendance at school. Unfortunately, if your child's attendance does not improve you may be invited to an Attendance Meeting at the school and may receive a Penalty Notice due to your child's persistent absence from school.

Q. Isn't my child entitled to 10 days holiday or odd days off for trips?

A. No.

Parents have a legal obligation to ensure that their child receives efficient full-time education. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking family holidays during term-time as school can only approve leave in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Term-time holidays are NOT classed as exceptional circumstances.

If you decide to take your child out of school during term-time and your leave has been unauthorised by the Headteacher, you will be served with a penalty notice by Derbyshire County Council Education Welfare Office. A fine of **£120 per pupil per adult** will be issued and should be paid within 28 days. If the fine is paid within 21 days, the payment reduces to £60 per pupil per adult.

Q. What is meant by genuine medical reasons to be absent?

A. Diarrhoea, sickness, childhood ailments e.g. measles, chicken pox, extremely high temperatures are classified as genuine illnesses. Children should not stay home if they have minor coughs, colds, tummy aches and headaches. If your child is too poorly to remain at the school. The school will contact you. Please remember that even absence due to genuine medical reasons still affect a child's attendance.

Q. What should I do if my child is absent?

A. Contact the school on the first day and subsequent days of absence to explain their absence. You can do this by telephoning the school reception on **01246 414370**. If your child is absent with no reason provided, school will contact you to carry out a health and well-being check, which may include a home visit.

Q. What should I do if my child has a medical appointment?

A. When you know in advance that your child will be absent from school for a medical appointment, it would be helpful to let school know before the date of the appointment. You can do this in person, by telephone or via E-Mail. However, we do request that routine medical appointments and dental appointments are booked out of school hours. We do understand that specialist appointments are allocated with little option but we would appreciate every effort is made to ensure your child does not miss any of their time at school.

Q. Do you require proof of medical and dental appointments in school time?

We will request proof of any appointment such as an appointment card or letter. Please respect that we are required to ask for proof by the Local Authority, as without evidence your child's absence will not be authorised.

Policy and Guidance

Working together to improve school attendance 2024

Children missing Education 2024

Attendance Updates from September 2024

Attendance Policy

School attendance and absence

Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance August_2024.pdf

Fines for parents for taking children out of school- what you need to know

Top tips for attending school on time

Is my child too ill for school?



**Primary illness
video 1x1.mp4**

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.



**“THIS MORNING,
HE HAD A RUNNY
NOSE... BUT LOOK
AT HIM NOW!”**

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HM Government

Head to the NHS website to find out more.

Other illnesses

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor **cough** or **common cold**. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#).

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#).

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school.

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should

try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#) because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#).

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#).

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).