

Term-Time Leave of Absence

Changes in the law mean that Headteachers can no longer grant leave of absence in term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances for the absence. The following reasons are **NOT** considered as exceptional:

- Holidays taken in term time due to lower costs, parental work commitments or once in a life time experiences.
- Holidays abroad for the purpose of visiting a sick relative
- Holidays booked as a surprise by relatives or to celebrate key events

Parents of children who have regular unauthorised absences or who take their children on holiday during term time may receive a penalty notice and a fine of up to **£2,500 and/or a custodial sentence**

Government Guidelines say that Attendance should be at least 95% and the School's target is 96%

Attendance Matters...

Children who attend school every day make better progress and achieve more than those who miss time at school.

The Education Act of 1996 states that it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that all Pupils attend school daily during term times

AND are punctual.

Failure to do this may end up in **YOU** being fined and taken to court.

Punctuality

School gates open at 8.35am

Registers are taken at 8.45am

If your child arrives between 8.45 and 9.15am they will receive a late mark

If your child arrives after 9.15am they will receive an unauthorised mark

Persistent late arrival at school after the register has closed contribute to a level of unauthorised absence at 10% or above and parents may receive a penalty notice and a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence

Southfields

Primary School



School Attendance

2023-24



Good school attendance supports children to feel confident and happy about school and learning

As a parent you can support your child to enjoy school life to the full by ensuring they **attend school EVERY day and also arrive on time.**

Missing days of School adds up. . .

As a parent it is your responsibility to let the school know if your child is going to be absent. Please DoJo Mrs Absence every day that your child is absent.

Failure to contact the school causes additional work for the office and could result in another child not accessing the help they need urgently or the school visiting your home or the police being contacted.

Unacceptable reasons for absence:

- Shopping
- Birthday treats
- Visiting relatives
- Non-urgent medical and dental appointments
- Holidays

Remember:
The only acceptable reasons for non-attendance are:
Illness
Emergency appointments

Learning missed in a school year		Well done and keep going!
Attendance is above 98%	Amazing Attendance! Your child has the very best chance of success. Brilliant Attendance! If your child does not have any more absences they could still reach the 'gold level'.	Your child has the best chance of success In line with attendance and Ofsted expectations
Attendance between 96% and 98%	Be Aware! Even a few days absence make it hard for your child to catch up. Every day really does count.	Your child has poor attendance and less chance of success Below National Attendance and Ofsted expectations
Attendance between 92% and 96%	Attendance at this level will start to have a detrimental effect on your child's education	As a school we are very concerned and will closely monitor your child's attendance and will contact you via letters and meetings
Attendance between 85% and 90%	The Government classes your child as Persistently Absent from school. Over the course of the year your child could miss as much as 5 weeks and 3 days of learning – that's nearly half a term	As a school we are seriously concerned and are required to refer attendance to the Education Welfare Service
Attendance below 85%	The Government classes your child as Persistently Absent from school. Attendance below 85% has a serious effect on your child's education and may affect their chances in later life	Your child has very poor attendance and significant learning has been missed Below National Attendance and Ofsted expectations

Time missed at school can lead to gaps in knowledge that become difficult to fill

Did you know?

If your child's attendance is 80%, this means your child is absent:

- 1 day EVERY week
- 6 days EVERY half term
- 12 days EVERY term
- 36 days EVERY year
- 180 days in five years

. . . That's nearly ONE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR!

If a student has 10 days off school in a school year, they're actually spending more days at home than at school