

WHITLEY MEMORIAL C of E AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL



***'Let your light shine' –
Matthew 5:16***

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!



Key
Point

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.

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 family holidays outside 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
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Discuss any problems with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.



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

- ☑ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ☑ 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?

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.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable



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