

# Information for Parents

## School Attendance and the Law

Regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities.

Any absence from school is a cause for concern. Only by attending every day will your child have the best chance to get the most from their education.

The headteacher at your child's school must decide whether to authorise an absence. That is to agree that there was a legitimate reason for your child not to be in school.

There are only four legitimate reasons for absence:

- Religious observance
- Illness of the child
- The death of a close family member
- An urgent medical or dental appointment



This graph shows the effect of missing time from school over a year. Every school session is important if your child is not going to fall behind.

Over the past year requests for holidays during term time has increased tremendously. Each day your child learns new things and these gradually build up, step by step, to a final outcome. Research shows that 10 days absence has a significant impact on children's education.

Very few children are able to 'catch up' on their return and obviously the teacher has to spend additional time with the child and this impacts on everybody else's learning.

We would ask you please to think very carefully when booking holidays during term time and the impact it will have on your child's education and that of others in the school.