

# Missing school means missing out . . .

As a parent it is your responsibility to ensure that you get your child to school each day . . . on time!

It is also your responsibility to let the school know if they are going to be absent . . . and why. Please contact the school office on the first day of any absence:

**01947 602202**

**Unacceptable** reasons for absence:

- Shopping
- Haircuts
- Birthday treats
- Visiting relatives
- Minor illness (coughs, etc.)
- Non-urgent medical / dental appointments (please book these during school holidays or after 3.15pm)
- Attending appointments with a sibling or parent

The only **acceptable** reasons for absence are:

- Illness
- Emergency appointment

Also:

**ONLY THE SCHOOL CAN AUTHORISE AN ABSENCE**

Attendance %	What it means for your child:	What it means for the school:
100%	Outstanding!	We are impressed!
95% to 99%	Great! Your child has the best chance of success.	We are really pleased – keep it up!
90% to 94.9%	Your child's attendance is seen as poor. It will impact on their progress.	We are very concerned and will monitor their attendance closely
89.9% - or less	Your child is seen as a persistent absentee. It will impact on what they can achieve	We are seriously concerned. A referral will be made to Education Welfare

**Did you know . . . ?**

Government guidelines say that attendance should be at least 95%

If attendance drops below 90%, your child is classed as a persistent absentee and will be referred to the Education Welfare Service, and can lead to prosecution.

If your child's attendance is 90%, it means they are absent:

- Half a day every week.
- 19 days across the school year
- A total of 133 days across their time at East Whitby

Missing school means:

- Missing **LEARNING** . . . which leads to gaps in knowledge.
- Missing **ACTIVITIES** . . . which means missing out on fun.
- Missing **TIME WITH FRIENDS** . . . which means that they move on to new friends.

## Term time holidays

Changes in the law mean that Headteachers can no longer authorise holidays in term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances.

The following are **NOT** considered as exceptional:

- Lower costs
- Once in a lifetime experiences
- Holidays booked as a surprise by relatives

Parents of children who have regular unauthorised absences or who take their children on holiday in term time may receive a penalty notice and a fine of

**£60 per parent, per child!**

If a child has 10 days off school in a school year, they're actually spending more time at home than at school. Children are only in school for 190 days per year, **PLEASE** take them on holiday on some of the other 175 days!

## Attendance matters

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

Arriving late also causes problems. Children who arrive late disturb the lesson when they come in the room, which makes them feel uncomfortable and interrupts learning for others. It means that they miss important information at the start of lessons and it takes them longer to settle to work for the day. It means that if you are 15 minutes late each day you lose 9 ½ days of learning each school year!

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance please contact

**Mr Smith or Mrs Libbey**  
**01947 602202**

Part of her role is to work with and support parents with any issues or problems. Please talk to her and we will do all that we can to help.



## School Attendance

The Education Act of 1996 states that it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that all children between the ages of 5 and 16 years attend school on a regular basis **AND** on time.

Good school attendance enables children to feel confident and happy about their school work and the activities that they participate in.

We want to work WITH parents to ensure that your children get the support they need to be in school on time, every day. This will help them to achieve and get the most out of their time with us.

Please work with us.

**Collaborate Achieve Nurture**