

Information about attendance/punctuality & sickness /Absence at St Bernadette's

Did you know that if a pupil was persistently absent - defined as missing around 15% or more of school time - for their whole school career, then they would have lost around 18 months of lesson time, severely damaging their chance to fulfil their potential. (DofE)

At St Bernadette's we take attendance seriously and we would like to see all the children in everyday and achieving 100% attendance. We know that this is not always possible as children do get ill and have to have time off. We do expect the children to achieve at least 95%.

The Department of Education has stated that from September 2015 that any child whose attendance falls to 90% or less will be classed as been at risk of Persistent Absence. This could trigger Local Authority Education Department becoming involved and in some instances legal action may be taken. Absences includes illness, late marks and holidays (which cannot be legally authorised by the school's Head teacher).

School Attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated - pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

The government expects:

- Schools and local authorities to:
 - Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence;
 - Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled;and
 - act early to address patterns of absence.
 - Parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.
 - All pupils to be punctual to their lessons.

Taken from: Department of Education -School attendance 2013

www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance

At St Bernadette's we want to work in partnership with parents and pupils to ensure that they are able to attend school as much as possible. If your child's attendance drops below 95%, parents and carers will be invited to an attendance meeting to explore any concerns they may have and identify any support needed.

These meetings are also used to advise parents of the impact of poor school attendance, the school's expectations about instilling positive attitudes regarding regular and punctual school attendance. For many, attendance improves at this point and does not need to progress further.

The meetings will discuss:

- Practical advice and strategies are discussed on how to maintain improved attendance.

- Support and advice through our Senior Family Support Worker, the School Nurse and the Pupil Welfare Officer.
- Support package designed to include specific advice and strategies to improve the pupil's school attendance. This will include referral to other agencies if necessary.

The school will:

- Liaise with parent/carer and continue to closely monitor attendance.
- Consultation between the school's Pupil Welfare Officer and Senior Family Support Worker to consider further on-going support or legal action if the attendance does not improve.

As well as children attending school regularly, we also expect children to come to school on time. Class room doors are open from 8.50am until 9am. After which you will have to take your child to the main office where they will receive a late mark.

Punctuality will be very closely monitored. Parents of the pupils who have been identified as been persistently late to school, will receive letters, so that they are made aware of the amount of time the child has missed through lateness.

If there is no improvement in punctuality, the parents will be invited to an attendance punctuality meeting. Again this allows us the opportunity to identify any concerns and look at what support if any is needed. Persistent lateness is poor attendance.

Your child will get 100% from us.

The More your child is at school, the more likely they are to achieve at school and in later life.

Pupil Attendance Expectations

99-100%	EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE
97-98%	VERY GOOD ATTENDANCE
96%	GOOD ATTENDANCE
95%	EXPECTED ATTENDANCE
90-94%	BELOW EXPECTATIONS
86-89%	WELL BELOW EXPECTATIONS
0-85%	SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW EXPECTATIONS

Parents ARE legally responsible for their child's attendance at school

If you are having problems with getting your child into school we are here to help. Good communication is vital.

Your child needs 100% from You.