

School Attendance & Truancy

Frequently asked questions

How do schools work out my child's attendance?

Schools count each day as two sessions - morning and afternoon. Your child has to attend 10 full sessions (five days, morning and afternoon) each week to achieve 100 per cent attendance for that week.

If your child has a half-day absence, they would have a 90 per cent attendance for that week. If they had a whole day off school, their attendance would be 80 per cent and so on. If your child is absent for the whole week, they would be given 0 per cent attendance.

Schools then calculate your child's average percentage attendance over the whole term.

How many children achieve 95 per cent or 100 per cent attendance?

If your child has 95% attendance at the end of the year they will have missed 9 days of schooling or 18 sessions.

A large number of students in any tutor group in any term in Winterhill school will get certificates for 100 per cent attendance and a large number of students in that tutor group will have been to school for over 95 per cent of their time.

Only a few students attend less than 95 per cent of the time.

What is a PA pupil?

A PA pupil or persistently absent pupil is a student whose attendance is 90% or less. The Government wants all LA to reduce the number of PA pupils. The majority of these students will be referred to the Attendance and Welfare Service.

The school report says that my child's average for the term is 90 per cent - should I be concerned?

Yes, you should. This means your child is having on average a day off every other week. This may be because they had the odd day here and there and then a few days off for an illness. Over the term, it adds up.

What can I do to minimise my child's time off school?

One of the best ways to help your child is to make all appointments (doctor, dentist, optician) after school hours.

Another is to make sure your child is never late for school. It is sometimes the case that tummy aches and headaches come if a student is inwardly worrying about being late.

The school wasn't happy when I asked if my child could take a little bit of time off for a family holiday. My child never has any other time off.

If your child has a week off school they could lose up to 20 lessons of English and mathematics - depending on how the school organises its lessons.

If you feel that in very exceptional circumstances you must take a holiday during term time, you have to get permission from the Headteacher at the school or the student will be marked as having unauthorised absence.

If you take your child out of school for a holiday or to travel to visit a sick relative and this has not be authorised by the Headteacher the LA may take legal action. This could be a Fixed Penalty Notice.

What can I do to help?

Make sure that your child gets to school on time. Set your child a target of better attendance than last term, no matter how good last term was.

If your child had 100 per cent (full) attendance, then challenge them to equal it. When your child comes home with a good attendance certificate, do what you would do anyway, and make them feel wonderful.

Winterhill offers support and advice about your child's attendance

To get in contact with our Attendance Team

Claire Bannister or Clare Bradshaw

please call: **01709 740232**

Attendance
Every school day counts!

