



ATTENDANCE SPECIAL

Spring 2024

Welcome to our first attendance newsletter of the year; the aim is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers.

You may have heard in the press that there is currently an attendance crisis in the UK. Overall absence in schools in England has risen more than 50% since 2019, while persistent absence – when pupils miss 10% or more of sessions – has more than doubled, prompting widespread concern and a range of interventions by government ministers.

We have had a visit from our newly appointed Attendance Officer at Torbay Council. The profile of attendance is a key priority for schools and as such they have instructed us to start to implement stricter measures for unauthorised absences of 5 days or more.

Our school is... currently in the **bottom 10%** of schools across the country for pupil attendance which is very concerning.

I have attached a table of pupil numbers in each category for each year group.

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	92.5 %	90.9 %	92.6 %	90.3 %	95.6 %	91.1 %	95.6 %
Persistently Absent	7	6	7	2	3	8	4
Below average	9	3	5	2	6	11	2
Excellent	12	9	16	17	17	13	15
100%	1	1	1	6	7	2	3

The school is also being monitored closely by the Educational Welfare Officer. Support will be offered to all families where attendance is causing a concern. However where this does not have a positive effect on a child's attendance then we have no option other than to follow the Local Authority's legal route.

Our School
Attendance Target
is 96%



Our whole school attendance currently stands at **92.4%** which is significantly lower than the end of last year at 94%.

With the exception of December every month this year has shown a drop in attendance compared to last year.

Absence affects children in many ways...

1. They miss out on learning that may not be covered again.
2. As all of our learning is sequential, children have the extra burden of 'catching up' when they return to school.
3. They miss out on fun and friendship with their friends.
4. Friendships can dwindle as pupils will move onto new friendships if their friends are off school a lot.
5. They begin suffering from anxiety due to lack of routine.
6. Their behaviour at school can deteriorate.

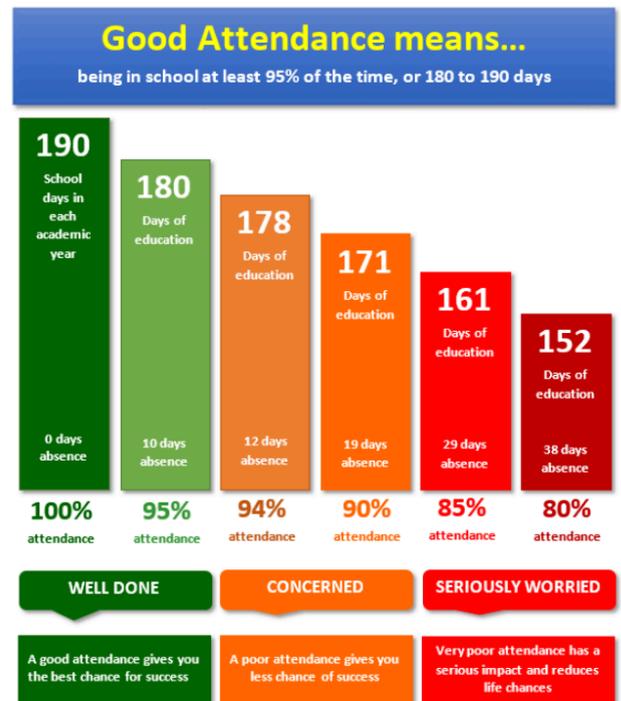
Good attendance is

important... because statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will develop gaps in their sequential knowledge. For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are doubly important as they move straight into their

phonics groups after the register has been taken.

90% attendance doesn't

sound too bad but... in actual fact by the end of the year this equates to four whole weeks of missed learning!



When it is OK for your child to be off...

- On the advice of a medical practitioner
- To seek urgent medical advice
- If they have a raised temperature and fever
- If they have been sick or had diarrhoea in the last 48 hours
- If they have an illness that is contagious such as Impetigo, Chicken Pox, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, Measles or Hand, Foot and Mouth disease

When you should send your child to school...

- If your child is in mild pain e.g. headache, ear ache, or sore throat
- If your child has a cough or cold
- If your child is tired or has had a bad night
- If your child has a mild condition such as head lice, conjunctivitis
- If your child has a condition such as slapped cheek syndrome which is no longer infectious once the symptoms or rash has appeared
- If your child has an injury such as a sprain or fracture (unless they are in considerable pain)

We will always...

make arrangements in school to support children that are feeling mildly unwell. For example they can stay inside at break times or be given a place to have a nap during the day. If a child's condition gets worse or we think a child is too ill to be at school we will contact you. We are also willing to administer Calpol during the school day if needed. This should be handed to the office in the morning in a clearly labelled bottle.

Working together...

We will continue to work with you to keep you updated on your child's attendance by

- texting you to let you when things are going well
- sending out letters each half term to inform you of your child's attendance should it go below 95%

- inviting you in to find ways to work together to support your child's attendance

The School Day

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.35am and the registers close at 8.45am. The school gates are open at 8.30am to allow the children to get in with plenty of time to be settled. Once the registers have closed then your child is marked absent and this will affect their overall attendance. The school day finishes at 3.15pm.

SOME FACTS...

-If your child is not in school they are unlikely to reach their learning potential.

-Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full time education.

-Parents can be issued with Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly- this includes taking children out of school on holiday, and excess 'lates'.

-The Local Authority has the power to prosecute parents in the Magistrates Court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.

-If your child arrives after **9:00 am** we are required to mark them as having unauthorised absence for the whole morning - arriving after **9:00 am** once in a week brings a child's attendance down to 90% for that week.

-Children with less than 85% attendance at school are unlikely to gain 5 Grade 9-4 GCSEs (A-C with old GCSE grades) or any qualification