



Attendance

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Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most out of their education and improve their chances in adult life.

School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships. The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear.

The more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.



Here at The Willows School we aim for every child to achieve at least 95% attendance.

Our whole school attendance target is to achieve 95% or above.

What does good attendance look like?

Attendance percentage	In one year
100% Attendance	0 days absence
95% Attendance	Up to 2 weeks absence
90% Attendance	Up to 4 weeks absence
85% Attendance	Up to 6 weeks absence
80% Attendance	More than half a term
75% Attendance	9 weeks or more

Punctuality

Getting to school on time is part of learning to become a responsible and reliable person.

- Our school day begins at 8:50am
- If you are running late please call the school office on [02088417176](tel:02088417176)
- On arrival at school, please report to the school office so that your child can be appropriately marked in the register



How can I help my child attend school regularly?

- Talk to your child about school
- Take a positive interest in your child's learning
- Keep in touch with school staff
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason
- Attend parents' evenings and other school events

10 Top Tips

- get your school clothes ready the night before
- pack your school bag and homework the night before
- don't go to bed late
- set alarm clock 5 minutes earlier
- enjoy your breakfast
- don't watch TV
- get washed and dressed
- leave for school at the same time each morning (set yourself a target time to leave the house and reward yourself for being on time!)
- arrange to walk to school with a friend or to meet your friends in the playground for a catch up before school

It is no coincidence that higher attendance leads to higher academic achievement and the Department for Education expect that each pupil should achieve at least 95% school attendance. This rate allows for periods of illness or particular circumstances when absence from school is unavoidable.

When we have concerns regarding individual pupil attendance we will be contacting parents/carers and this will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's school attendance and where appropriate punctuality. From this point we may take the following steps to improve your child's school attendance/punctuality:

- request a meeting with you and put a support plan in place
- contact your child's GP, with your consent, to establish if your child has medical needs which may prevent them from attending school
- with your consent, make a referral to the school nursing team, to put in place a care plan to help establish good patterns of school attendance/punctuality
- where we feel we have exhausted all supportive options in school, we may seek further support from the Local Authority attendance services

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Useful Links:

<https://bjgplife.com/the-role-of-the-gp-in-maximising-school-attendance/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1181955/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2023.pdf