



GOOD ATTENDANCE GUIDE



- Every day counts -

At St Oswald's, we encourage all children to come to school every day.

As well as the obvious academic benefits regular attendance at school has for your child, it also helps develop confidence and to make lasting friendships.

Our school target is **98%** attendance.

Did you know?

90% attendance sounds good, but means that your child misses on average:

- One half day every week.
- Nearly four weeks every school year.
- Over one school year in a school career.

2 weeks holiday in term time every year with no other absences means that your child:

- Can only ever achieve 95% attendance
- Will miss about two terms in a school career

5 minutes late every day means missing about 3 days of school every year.

Schools and the local authority monitor school absence and lateness and work with families and young people where the level of absence is giving cause for concern.

When should I keep my child off school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell. Advice on when you should keep them off and for how long, as well as information about when you don't need to, can be found by following the link [HERE](#).

How can I help my child to get the best out of school?

- Be aware of the impact of regular absences - missing school is missing out.
- Avoid taking family holidays in term time.
- Make sure your child understands the benefits of regular attendance at school.

- If your child is off school, you must let the school know why and tell them when they can expect your child to return.
- It can be difficult, but try to make all appointments for the doctor, dentist, optician etc after school hours or during the school holidays where possible.
- Don't let your child stay off for reasons like going shopping, birthdays or looking after brothers and sisters.
- Attend parents' evenings to discuss your child's progress.
- Don't let your child stay off school for a minor ailment.
- Each school day is split into two sessions and the attendance register is taken every morning and afternoon. If your child is poorly first thing but improves by lunchtime, send them into school for the afternoon session.
- If your child recovers from illness before the end of the week, send them back to school even if it's only for one day - every day counts.

What can happen if my child is absent from school on a regular basis?

Absence means:

- Missing out on school work and it can be very hard to catch up.
- Losing touch with friends and teaching staff.
- Finding it more difficult to have a successful future after leaving school.
- Having more opportunities to become involved in crime and anti-social behaviour either as victim or perpetrator.
- If your children are registered at school, the law makes you responsible for making sure that they attend regularly.

Schools:

- Monitor attendance and will try to support pupils who may be having difficulties
- Have to inform the Local Authority of every pupil who doesn't attend regularly.
- Can refer concerns about attendance to the Attendance Service at the Local Authority.

What if I am worried about my child's school attendance?

- Talking to the school is the best place to start.
- Don't be afraid to get in touch with your child's teacher or Headteacher – sharing problems is the first step to solving them.

