



Why is school attendance so important and what are the risks of missing a day?

Parents in England are responsible for ensuring that their child receives an appropriate full-time education. When a child is registered at school, parents are responsible for securing their child's regular attendance.

- 97% attendance sounds good but this still means your child has missed 4 full days of school
- 80% attendance means that your child has missed 38 days in the year; over the lifetime of Primary School child this means they miss 266 days or over one year of education
- 5 minutes late each day means 3 whole days lost each year

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Data from 2019, showed that primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

Regular attendance not only enhances pupils' academic performance but also contributes to their overall well-being and social development. Persistent absenteeism (less than 90% attendance) can lead to lower achievement levels, decreased confidence, and disengagement from learning.

Pupils who receive additional support and targeted interventions are very unlikely to benefit from these if they have low attendance levels, particularly persistent absenteeism. This impacts on the pupils' progress quite significantly.