



# Attendance

## Good school attendance is important because:

- ⇒ Regular school attendance helps children fulfil their potential and gives them a better chance for the future
- ⇒ A school year is a total of 190 days. This leaves 175 days to spend with family, friends, go on holiday and do other fun activities
- ⇒ The national average of children attending school is 96%
- ⇒ 90% attendance over the course of the school year is the equivalent to one day off every two weeks

## Every day matters

We expect children at Weston Favell Primary School to attend school regularly. Every day if possible.

Where we have attendance concerns, parents will be contacted and support will be offered. Where persistent concerns remain, an Attendance Contract will be drawn up and agreed. We, as a school, may also work with other agencies to ensure that your child is attending school for as many days as possible.

## The effects of being late or having regular absences:

Children do not like being late or absent from school. It can affect them in many different ways. For example, once your child has arrived late and sat down for class, it may take them longer to settle and focus on the task. This may disrupt the learning of others in the class. Being late can have social implications and lower attainment.

Children who have high attendance rates make better progress in their learning.

## Reasons for absence:

If your child is unwell, you must phone the school office as soon as possible on 01604 401547. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough for school, please send them in and we can make this decision for you. If we feel that your child is unfit for school, we will contact you to come and collect them.

Absences due to over sleeping will not be authorised. From April 2023, holidays during term time will not be authorised, unless circumstances are exceptional.

If your child has an appointment, please inform the school office or your child's class teacher. It is preferable that you book appointments outside of school time. If this is not possible, please provide proof of an appointment prior to or following the appointment.

The County Council may choose to fine you if your child is absent from school without any authorisation. This may be when a child has more than five separate absences across a six week period.

## What can you do to help your child's attendance?

- Only keep your child at home if they have a genuine illness. If you are in doubt, please bring your child to school. Should your child begin to feel unwell or we believe they should not be in school, we will contact you to come and collect them. We are able to administer prescribed medication as well as Calpol and Nurofen, but we can only do this once you have signed the necessary form which is available on our school website or in the school office.
- Please try your hardest to make medical appointments outside of school. When this is unavoidable, please ensure that you bring your child to school before and/or after the appointment. You must also inform the school office or class teacher well in advance. Proof of appointments will be required by the office staff prior to or following the appointment.
- Talking regularly to your child about school and how they feel about it will increase their ability to express their feelings towards being in school. They are more likely to attend school if they feel that their anxieties are listened to and they are supported. Please come and talk to us if your child mentions something that you feel needs to be addressed.

## How can we help?

- We can administer medication, as mentioned above, throughout the day if we have your permission
- We can arrange meetings to support you and find solutions to situations that may be causing poor attendance

## Every minute counts:

The playground gates open at 8:40am and your child is expected to be in school no later than 8:50am. Lessons start promptly once the children are in school. Therefore it is important that they are not late.

5 minutes late every day → 3 days lost per year

10 minutes late every day → 6 days lost per year

15 minutes late every day → 10 days lost per year

30 minutes late per day → 19 days lost per year