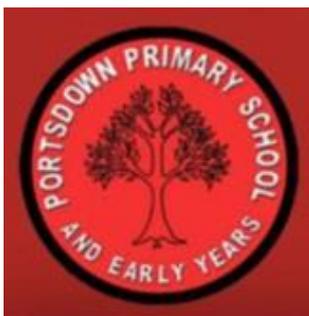




Attendance Information for Parents



Paulsgrove, Cosham & Wymering Cluster Schools



ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTERS

Every day missed from school has an impact on your child's achievement. The statistics are really clear:

73% of children who have over 95% attendance achieve 5 A*-C grades at GCSE whereas only 3% who have attendance of 50% do.

If your child is off of school they will miss important learning. This missed learning builds up to have a huge impact that is not always understood. For example:

- 90% attendance is the same as 4 weeks of school missed each year. 4 weeks is the same as missing 100 lessons.
- 90% attendance every year from the age of 5 to 16 is the same as missing more than one whole school year.
- Being 15 minutes late each day is like losing 10 days of schooling each year.

Give these figures it is easy to see why children who are absent are less successful at school. Children who attend regularly are also happier, healthier and have more stable friendships. Put simply good attendance means a better education and so better life chances.

It is every parents' legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly. Regularly means more than 95% of the time (or less than 10 days off per year). We recognise that this is not always easy to achieve and so we will:

- Work with you and support you to meet your responsibilities
- Employ specialist staff who are experienced in helping children and families overcome the barriers to good attendance
- Provide you with regular information about levels of absence and express concern if attendance is too low
- Use the sanctions available to us when attendance is low and not improving

The next two pages in this booklet aim to help you make sure that your child's attendance is as good as it could be.

- The first explains different levels of attendance and what these mean in terms of their impact on a child's education and what the next steps might be.
- The second document is advice from the NHS about how long a child should be absent from school when they are suffering with a common illness.

You will see that our expectations are very high and no child should be absent from school for more than ten days per year and we certainly don't want children to miss school because of holidays or other events which must be scheduled in the 13 weeks a year when the school is closed.

As the headteachers of the schools in the area we hope the information will help you. If we are to tackle this important issue it is vital that we continue to work in partnership and we thank you for your support.

NHS Absence from School Advice

Type of illness	NHS recommended period to be kept away from school	NHS further advice and comments
Diarrhoea or vomiting	48 hours since last episode	This may vary in each case, please contact school for further advice.
Cough and cold	None	-
Flu	Until recovered	-
Whooping Cough	5 days from start of antibiotics	After treatment non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks.
Conjunctivitis	None	-
Head Lice	None	Recommended use of proprietary hair conditioner. Please notify the school.
Mumps	5 days from onset of swelling	Mumps in teenage children can cause other serious medical complications
Tonsillitis	None	There are many causes, most are due to viruses and do not need antibiotics.
Cold Sores	None	Avoid contact with the sores.
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics.	Antibiotics can speed the healing process and reduce the infectious period.
Warts and Verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, changing rooms and for gymnastics.
Fever	24 Hours	-
Headache	None	If headache is severe and accompanied by other symptoms consult your GP.
Chicken Pox	5 Days	Kept away for recommended period from onset of rash.
Shingles	None	Absence only required if rash is weeping and unable to be covered.

If you have any queries regarding this health information please contact the school Tel: 023 9237 0321

WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD’S ATTENDANCE MEAN?

CATEGORY	IMPACT ON YOUR CHILD’S PROGRESS AT SCHOOL		SCHOOL/LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION
100% OUTSTANDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lessons missed! No illness or time off for appointments 	Best chance of success – every opportunity available to make progress and enjoy what school has to offer	School based rewards for example letters home, trips, raffle prizes, extra opportunities and certificates.
98% GOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very few lessons missed Only 3 days absence in a year 	Very good chance of making progress that is expected of you.	
95% REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 days (two weeks) absence in a year At least 50 hours of lessons missed 	Less chance of success: 50 hours of teaching to catch up on.	Medical evidence will be required for absences School Fixed Penalty Notice warning letter issued for irregular attendance Meeting at the school to explore the issues and find solutions Close monitoring of attendance on a weekly basis
90% SERIOUS CONCERN *PERSISTENT ABSENTEE STATUS*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 days (four weeks) absence in a year Over 100 hours of lessons missed 	Less than 50% chance of achieving expected grades	School reports pupil as a Persistent Absentee to governors, Local Authority (LA) and Department for Education Medical evidence required for any absence to be authorised School will agree Improving Attendance Plan with pupil/parents Local Authority Fixed Penalty Notice Warning letter requested Referral to Early Help agencies as appropriate Home visits from education welfare officer
Below 85% UNACCEPTABLE *PERSISTENT ABSENTEE STATUS*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 days absence in a year; six weeks off 150 hours of lessons missed 	Less than 30% chance of achieving expected grades	Direct action from LA – School Attendance Team and specialist support agencies: School Attendance Panel set up, targets set improvement required within a set time period or prosecution by the LA is risked. Fixed Penalty issued Regular formal meetings in school or at home to review attendance plan Reintegration steps as appropriate Possible Neglect/safeguarding concern raised with Local Authority

Please note that pupils with diagnosed medical conditions or serious injuries will have Individual Health Care plans agreed with parents, the school and professionals and therefore are not necessarily subject to the procedures outlined above.