

The Importance of Good School Attendance and Punctuality

Research shows that good school attendance impacts upon children's success in learning. Good attendance helps children to achieve good results, helps them to fulfil their potential and gives them a chance of a better future.

At Ashford Oaks, we provide a quality education to enrich children's minds and give them more choices in life. To help us achieve this, we want all of our children to have the best possible attendance. We want children at our school to have at least 97% attendance.

If your child attends school between 95% and 100%, they are on track to achieve their very best and enjoy all that school has to offer.

Just 10 days absence in a year can take your child's attendance down to 94.7%

Whilst a figure of 90% sounds good, in reality, this means that your child has missed half a day of school every week or a full month of the year. **If a child only attended school for 90% of the year, every year, throughout his or her primary school career, this would equate to one whole school year missed in total!**

100% Attendance	0 Weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success, well done
95% Attendance	1 week, 4 days of learning missed	Best chance of success, well done
90% Attendance	3 weeks, 4 days of learning missed	Poor attendance, we are worried
85% Attendance	5 weeks, 3 days of learning missed	Poor attendance, we are worried
80% Attendance	7 weeks, 3 days of learning missed	Very poor attendance we are seriously concerned
75% Attendance	9 weeks, 1 day of learning missed	Very poor attendance we are seriously concerned

Every day that your child is absent from school is an opportunity missed. Schools and parents/carers have a shared responsibility to ensure that children attend school regularly and on time. The law says that as a parent/carer, ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is a legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without good reason can be classed as an offence.

Government guidelines state that an attendance figure of 90% or less is classed as a 'persistent absence'. The government identifies a good level of attendance as 95% or more. At Ashford Oaks, we will inform you each term of your child's attendance rates. We will also notify you if we feel that your child's attendance needs to be improved.

Home support is critical in ensuring that children achieve in their education – What can you do to help?

- Ensure your child attends school every day and on time.
- If your child is not well enough to attend, contact the school as soon as you can on the first day of absence.
- Make dental and medical appointments outside of school time or at weekends.
- Take family holidays during the school holiday. We are unable to authorise term time holidays.
- Contact us immediately if you need help or support with your child's attendance or punctuality.

Punctuality is just as important as attendance. **We open the school gates at 8:40am every morning** and take the register at 8:50am. It is important that children arrive in school on time as it supports them to learn good timekeeping and also reduces classroom disruption for the other children and themselves, allowing them to settle quickly and be ready for the day.

At Ashford Oaks, we expect children to attend school every day, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so.

We understand that there can be tricky times and as ever, we are always on hand to offer you any support that you feel you need. If there are ever any problems, please do not hesitate to come and see us and let us know how we can help.

Celebrating Attendance

Each week in our celebration assembly we announce the classes who had the best attendance and punctuality in the school for that week. That class will have Attendance Ted or Punctuality Pup join them in their class for the following week.

Each week on a surprise day we hold a Punctuality Raffle; children who arrive to school on time are given a raffle ticket and winners are picked to receive an ice lolly that very lunchtime.

Children with 100% attendance for the term will receive a certificate during our celebration assembly at the end of each term.

The child with the most improved attendance that term in their class will receive a certificate during our celebration assembly at the end of each term.

Our aim as a school is to reach 97% attendance. Each class has an Attendance Mr Potato Head to look after. Each week that a class reaches 97% or over, they will gain a piece to add to Mr Potato Head! Which class can complete their Mr Potato Head first? A class prize is on offer once he is complete.

We also have a 2 week challenge 3 times a year-each child that is at school all day every day for those 2 weeks will get their name put into a pot to receive a chance of winning our family prize! Our first 2 week challenge is... Have 100% attendance during these 2 weeks and you and your family could win a trip to...

Absence Request forms can be collected from the school office to give us notice in advance of any absences

[Our school Attendance policy can be found here](#)

[Click here for info on illnesses and attendance](#)