

Is your Child in School today?

Information for Parents/Carers

The greater your attendance, the greater your achievement



School Attendance

At Thornton Primary School, we want every child to enjoy learning, achieve success and reach its full potential. Attending school regularly plays a vital role in helping children do their very best.

Children who come to school every day are more likely to feel happy and settled, build strong friendships, and make good progress in their learning. Regular attendance also helps children develop confidence, routines and a positive attitude towards education.

Good attendance habits start from an early age. We therefore encourage all parents and carers of nursery, primary aged children to ensure their child attends every school session whenever possible.

What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable.

Less than 40% of pupils in secondary schools with an average of 17 days or more absence get five good GCSEs (grades 9 – 5) compared to more than 90% in schools with an average of less than 8 days absence.

In primary schools, less than 65% get good results in Maths and English in schools with an average of 15 days absence compared to around 90% in schools where the average is less than 8 days. Many parents are surprised how quickly their children accumulate 15 days absence.

AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Reasons given for absence during morning or afternoon sessions from school for genuine reasons, e.g. Illness, religious observance, emergencies or unavoidable causes will be recorded as authorised where satisfactory evidence is provided.

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE INCLUDES:

Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. non-infectious illness or injury that does not affect their ability to learn, or the child having a late night; children who arrive at school too late to get registered; holidays in term time; accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments; absences which have not been properly explained; family days out or birthdays.

Parents can encourage good attendance by:

- Having a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Preparing for the morning routine by packing a bag the night before and setting out uniform
- Talking together about all the fun their child will have at school
- Talking to your child's teacher if there are any concerns or anxieties
- Show your child that you think school attendance is important
- Attend parent evenings to discuss your child's progress
- Working with the school when any support is offered, including formal support such as attendance contracts or voluntary early help

LATES

Being on time is a good life skill. It is important that your child attend school every day and on time. It is important that children understand the importance of time keeping and being organised. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class.

The school doors are opened at **8:45 am** and are locked at **8:55 am**. Pupils arriving after this time should report to the School Office accompanied by an adult to be signed in.

Lates will be closely monitored by the attendance team.



MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Where possible, please make medical/dental appointments for your child outside of school hours. If this is not possible, the amount of time off school should be kept to a minimum. If medical evidence is not provided, the school may not authorise time off.

UNAUTHORISED LEAVE DURING TERM TIME

Pupils are not entitled to take time off during the term for holidays. Please be aware that requests will almost always be refused and will not be authorised. Family holidays should be taken during the school holiday periods. A Penalty notice may be issued if parents fail to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If left unpaid, parents will be reported for prosecution. This is in accordance with the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

PERSISTANT ABSENCE

Good attendance is 97% or more.
Any child with attendance below 90% is classified as 'persistently absent' from school.

Research shows that persistent absence can affect a child's social skills, confidence & self-esteem. Persistent absentees are less likely to achieve their full potential, which can affect grades, and a child's future prospects.

If your child's absence drops below 97%, you may get a home visit.

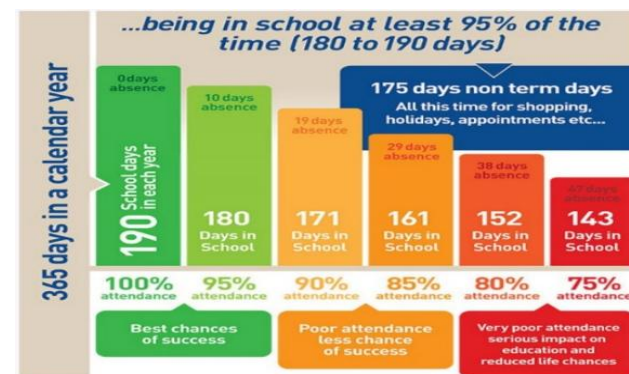
REPORTING ABSENCES

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that you notify the school, daily, of your child's sickness or absence. Please note we do not accept email messages.

WHO CAN HELP?

Miss Rhodes works closely with families to provide advice and support on all things attendance and punctuality. Mrs Rhodes is contactable through the school office.

If you are facing difficulties getting your child into school, it is important to discuss this with the school at the earliest opportunity. They are there to help.



SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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