



Every
minute
counts



Education Welfare Service

Q & A

Attendance Matters

Your questions answered

Why should my child's attendance matter?

Chances (probability) of achieving your child's SAT/ GCSE level based on their attendance level:

Attendance	Chance of achieving SAT/GCSE
93.5%	Very good
92.5%	Good
91.5%	Fairly good
90%	Less than 50% *
88%	Less than 35%
87%	Less than 20%

* A 90% attendance means your child is absent from school for the equivalent of half a day per week, missing up to 3 hours of lessons a week, which equals 100 hours per year!

Why is it my responsibility to make sure my child attends school?

By law, all children between 5 and 16 must receive full time education.

As a parent/ carer you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure your child attends school regularly.



Failure to secure your child's regular school attendance can result in your prosecution.

Prosecution can be through the Magistrates' Court under section 444 (1/1A) of the Education Act 1996 or by issue of a Penalty Notice under section 23 of the Anti Social Behaviour Act, 2003.

What difference does it make if my child arrives a few minutes late?

Lateness = lost learning - minutes amount to days!



It is a legal requirement that your child is registered at both registrations – morning and afternoon.

Minutes lost each day	Days per school year
5 mins	3 days
10 mins	6.5 days
15 mins	10 days
20 mins	13 days
30 mins	19 days

Taking your child to school and escorting them onto school premises is the easiest way to guarantee your child is arriving on time.

If your child misses a registration they are identified immediately as truanting until the school receives an acceptable explanation.

If I send my child to school, isn't it the school's responsibility to make sure they stay in school?

Actually, it is still your responsibility! Schools are places of learning. Schools have no authority to restrain your child to prevent them from walking off school premises.

If in doubt, ask yourself the following questions:

- What are they doing?
- Where are they going?
- Who are they meeting up with?
- Why is my child leaving early but not arriving at school?
- Have they left the house early enough to arrive at school on time?
- Am I sure that my child is actually going straight to school?
- If there are concerns, should I be checking daily with the school that my child is registered?

Why have I been asked for medical confirmation of future absences?

The request has been made due to one of the following circumstances:

- Your child has had a significant number of absences which have developed into a pattern of concern
- Your child has been identified as truanting from lessons and/ or registration
- Your child has left the school site without permission from a member of staff

Who can I talk to for help in making changes and improving my child's attendance?

All schools have a variety of different people who can help you and your child sort out issues that are affecting attendance.

Contact the school to ask to speak to someone. Lots of different people are employed directly by schools, such as Learning Mentors, Inclusion Officers or Attendance Officers to help you and your child. Alternatively, Connexions Workers, School Nurse, Parenting Support Officers and, of course, the Education Welfare Officer assigned to your school can also help.

The Local Authority, through the Education Welfare Service, will enforce regular school attendance if there is no improvement. Repeated failure to attend meetings will not prevent legal enforcement. Fines can be imposed up to £2,500, may include a parenting order, with a compulsory parenting course and/ or imprisonment.

Don't let this happen-we're here to help!

Education Welfare Service
Church Square House
High Street, Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire, DN15 6NL

Tel: 01724 297502 | Fax:01724 296866