



Greenhaugh Primary School Attendance Policy

Aims

Our attendance policy aims to:

- Support pupils and their parents/carers in the establishment of the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality
- Ensure that all pupils have full and equal access to the best education that we can offer in order to increase learning
- Enable all pupils to progress smoothly, confidently and with continuity through the school
- Make parents/carers aware of their legal responsibilities

Being at School

School education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. It has been proved that regular non-attendance can severely impede academic and social development. Parents / carers and the school staff should work in partnership in making educational success and in ensuring that all children have full and equal access to all the school has to offer. This is a successful school and your child plays their part in making it so. We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the community to reach out for excellence. For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education, it is vital that they attend regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

School Times

- 8.45am – Children arrive at school for outdoor play
- 9am – Registration
- 3.00pm – School ends

When a child arrives on time:

- Registration takes place quickly and at the same time every day
- The day gets off to a good start for everyone
- Everyone hears the information given and is included in important explanations and discussions. This ensures that everyone knows what to do and what is expected of them

When a Child Arrives Late:

- It interrupts concentration
- It wastes valuable learning time
- The teacher repeats information / instructions whilst others have to wait
- The late child is at an immediate disadvantage because they may have missed important teaching points, missed discussions where ideas are shared and will be generally unsettled

Taking the Register

By law, schools must take a morning register and afternoon register and record the attendance or absence of every pupil. During school hours the school staff are legally in *loco parentis* and therefore must know

where the pupils are during the school day. If a pupil has to leave school for any reason during the school day, the parent / guardian must contact the school with an explanation.

Pupil's attendance and punctuality is recorded and will be passed on to a future school as necessary.

When Your Child is absent

By law, schools must record absences and the reasons given for the absence.

Only the head teacher can officially authorise an absence, but unless there is a concern, the staff will usually do this on their behalf. Parents / guardians provide reasons for absence and the school must decide whether or not they justify authorisation according to government guidelines.

Examples of Authorised Absences:

- Genuine illness of the pupil
- Hospital / dental appointment for the pupil
- Death of a near relative
- Religious observance (Faith of the parent /guardian)

Examples of Unauthorised Absence:

- Sickness of a parent or other family member
- Inadequate clothing for school
- Child being used as a carer
- Problems with transport
- Non urgent medical treatment – e.g. Dental check-up, doctors' appointments for minor ailments (these should be made after 3pm when school finishes).
- School refusal or truancy
- A birthday treat or shopping trip
- Family holiday

Whenever a child is absent from school, the parent / guardian should:

- Contact the school before 9:00am on the first day of absence. If no notification of absence is received, the school office will contact the parent / guardian to ascertain the reason
- Where possible let the school know in advance of any planned absences e.g. hospital appointments
- Where possible make medical / dental appointments out of school hours.

Are you aware that . . .

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any pupil's absence disrupts teaching routines so may affect the learning of others in the same class. Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

Attendance during one school year	Equals absent days	Which approximately is weeks absent	Which is this is the number of lessons missed	Description
96-100%	0 to 8 days	Less than 1.5 weeks	Less than 38 lessons	Excellent
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	Of concern
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	Unsatisfactory
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	Persistent absence
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons	

Holidays

The Government has amended key legislation relating specifically to the authorisation of leave in term time which came into force on 1st September 2013. This decision was made to encourage schools to take a firmer stance on unnecessary absence and to dispel the myth held by many parents that there is an entitlement to time off school for holidays in term time.

The new legislation means that as of 1st September 2013 Head teachers cannot authorise any leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are “exceptional” circumstances to warrant the granting of leave.

Religious Observance

Greenhaugh Primary School acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekend and this necessitates a consideration of authorised absence or special leave for religious observance.

Parents are requested to give advance notice to the school if they intend their son/daughter to be absent. However, in the interests of fulfilling the academic requirements of the school and limiting the authorised absence rate of the school, it is identified as reasonable that no more than one day be designated for any individual occasion of religious observance/festival and no more than three days in total in any academic year. Any further absence will be categorised as unauthorised.

Encouraging Regular Attendance

There will be a special award presented at the end of the summer term for the pupil/s with 100% attendance over the whole school year.

How You Can Help

You can help your child by:

- Ensuring that you have everything they need ready for school the night before
- Ensuring regular bedtimes and wake up times on school days
- Ensuring they arrive at school punctually
- Talking to a member of the school staff if there is a problem

Attendance information for parents

Your child's attendance report will be given out with their Summer Term School Report unless attendance falls to below at any time during the school year.

Significantly above expectations = **Above 99%**

Above average expectations = **97%-99%**

Average = **95% – 97%**

Below expectations = **92% – 95%**

Significantly below expectations = **Below 92%**

Please note if your child's attendance drops below 93% then you will be contacted by the Headteacher. As a school we currently have an attendance target of 96.5%

Policy adopted: March 2020