

We appreciate some circumstances for absence are unavoidable – be honest with your school about the circumstances.



School Matters!



Term Time Holiday

Your child's school will have an Attendance Policy published on their website which will give you information and procedure for applying for term time holiday.

IF you are considering this please think about the impact on your child's education and wellbeing in school. Also be aware The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2013 state that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Please note that term time holiday may result in a fine being issued.

Procedures for falling school attendance

All Newport schools review pupil attendance regularly.

If attendance is between 90% and 95% you may receive a phone call offering support or a letter from your school making you aware of the current attendance % and offering you support.

If attendance is below 90% you may be asked to offer medical evidence for further absences.



Please understand these processes are because we care about your children – we want them to achieve and be prepared for a successful future.

Who can help you with school attendance?

Your school – contact your class teacher/form tutor for support.

Trina Elliot – Newport Schools Education Welfare Officer: trina.Elliot@taw.org.uk

Do you know what your child's attendance % is?

National average attendance figure is 95.3%

Together we aspire to be above average.

Newport Schools work closely together as a Cluster. One aspect of our joint work is around school attendance; we value high attendance and work hard to support pupils to achieve this.

We have put together this leaflet to help you to understand the importance of excellent attendance and how we can help.



Why is School Attendance important?

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life.



When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better results and develop healthy life habits. Students who attend school regularly feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to finish school with good grades; setting them up for a bright future.

We aim for children to have attendance as close to 100% as possible. Did you realise:

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

98% attendance = 4 days absent from school
95% attendance = 10 days absent from school
90% attendance = 4 weeks absent from school
85% attendance = 5 ½ weeks absent from school
80% attendance = 7 ½ weeks absent from school

Children who have attendance below 90% are classed as persistent absentees by the Department for Education; this indicates a child has missed a lot of school. References for children who leave school with attendance less than 90% will indicate they are a persistent absentee.

90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve 5 or more good grades at GCSE and around 1/3 achieve no GCSEs at all.

For each KS2 and KS4 measure overall absence had a statistically significant negative link to attainment i.e. everyday missed was associated with a lower attainment outcome.

Practical ways to maintain high attendance...

*GP's/Dentists/opticians are well used to being asked for **appointments outside of school hours.** If an appointment during school time is unavoidable then the pupil should attend school before/after to reduce the learning missed.



*Weather conditions can increase pupil absence. Please **ensure children are appropriately prepared for weather conditions** i.e. sun cream, waterproof coats, warm clothing etc. Unless a school is closed then weather conditions should not prevent a pupil attending school.



*If a pupil is tired support them at home by **encouraging 'earlier' nights and strategies for relaxation/mindfulness** at home. Tiredness is not a reason for absence from school.



*Children may say they are unwell but actually are avoiding school due to issues with friendships or learning. **Talk to your child regularly** about their school experiences and speak to staff if you have any concerns so that your child can be supported.



Pupil Illness

If your child has a minor ailment then they should still attend school. Where possible our schools will make arrangements to support students who may not be feeling their best.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to decide whether to send a child to school, however we recommend the default position is that your child is sent to school unless 'significant illness' is evident. It is at the Head teachers discretion whether to authorise absences.

A cough or cold is **not** a 'significant illness'.

If your child does have 'significant illness' the school should be advised as soon as possible. It is the Parent/Carer responsibility to notify the school of any absences. All of our schools have a first day absence reporting policy in the interests of safeguarding. The illness may also impact on the health of others in school so when asked for details of your child's illness please respect this is to enable us to fulfil our duty of care to other pupils and staff.

