



Parent/Carer Information

Pupil Attendance



FRIENDSHIP

KINDNESS

TEAMWORK

SAFETY

HONESTY

RESPECT

Why is it important for my child to attend school regularly?



Every child is entitled to an education and it is the legal responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their child is educated. By attending school regularly, children will benefit from high quality teaching and learning that enables them to achieve their potential and experience success. They will have opportunities to be included in a wide range of activities and will be more confident in their own abilities. Children will enjoy developing positive relationships with others and will have lots of fun with friends.

What will happen if my child does not attend school regularly or is often late?

If children do not attend school regularly, it is likely they will fall behind in their learning and, even when they are in school, they may experience difficulties due to missing prior teaching. This may cause children to become upset and anxious. When children miss school regularly this can also affect their friendships and relationships with others. Children who are often late coming to school can be unsettled as they miss the morning routine and early teaching and learning that takes place. It is also disruptive for the rest of the class as their learning is interrupted too.



When is it acceptable for my child to be absent and what should I do when he/she is?



There are a range of acceptable reasons for school absences, including illness or medical appointments, an activity the school has agreed in advance, religious or cultural reasons, bereavement or a family crisis.

It is not acceptable for children to be absent due to going on holiday during term time, although there are some exceptions to this rule.

When children are absent it is the responsibility of parents/carers to inform the school in advance, if possible, or on the first day of absence. If we do not know where children are we will send text messages and may call parents/carers. If we do not receive a response, we will then refer to emergency contacts. It is important that you provide the school with current contact details.

What happens if my child does not attend school regularly?

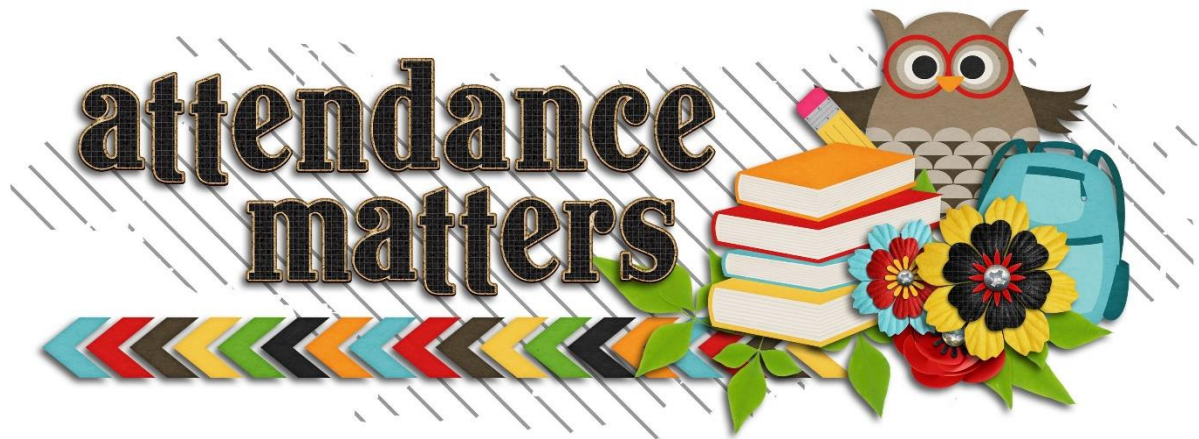
If there is an issue or concern that is causing attendance problems, it is important that you contact the school straight away so that we may work in partnership to try to sort the situation quickly. When a child is absent from school due to valid reasons, we will work with parents/carers to ensure appropriate supports are in place.

Attendance is regularly monitored and **when a child's attendance drops below 90% this is cause for concern**. If your child is in this category you will receive a letter informing you and the expectation is that every effort is made to improve attendance. If there is not an acceptable improvement, parents/carers will continue to receive letters, phone calls and may be required to meet with the Head



Teacher to discuss this further. If attendance remains at an unacceptable level, without good reason, this may be considered an offence in accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 Section 35. This may involve the school involving Social Work or making a referral to the Children's Reporter.

Attendance Matters



- Attendance of 95% for the year equals 10 days that your child has been absent – that is 2 full school weeks of your child's learning missed for that year
- Attendance of 90% for the year equals 19 days that your child has been absent - that is almost 4 school weeks missed
- Attendance of 85% for the year equals 29 days that your child has been absent – that is almost 6 school weeks missed
- Attendance of 80% for the year equals 38 days that your child has been absent – that is over 7 school weeks missed

Punctuality Matters

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 15 minutes late everyday adds up to 2 weeks absence each year
- Arriving 30 minutes late everyday adds up to 19 days absence each year



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Important Thoughts:

- As we recover from the challenges of COVID it is more important than ever that our children attend school/nursery every day and on time, to minimise the impact of lost learning time
- If your child's attendance is lower than 85%, missed learning could equate to one full term
- If your child's attendance was to remain at this level, by the time he/she is in P3 or P4, a whole school year could have been missed
- If your child's attendance was below 85% every year of primary school, he/she would have missed more than 1½ years of learning
- Consider the impact this could have on your child!

It is important that our children maximise their time in school & nursery, giving themselves the best chance to learn, develop and succeed. We fully appreciate that absences through ill health or personal family circumstances can happen and will continue to fully support children on their return to school/nursery.

If you would like to discuss your child's attendance, please arrange to see a member of the Leadership Team:

Mrs Campbell – Head Teacher

Mrs Galbraith – Principal Teacher

Mrs Hamilton – Principal Teacher

Ms McIndewar – Acting PEF Principal Teacher (Raising Attainment)

Miss Easton – Acting PEF Principal Teacher (Health & Wellbeing)

Mrs Cairns – Nursery Principal Lead

Miss Garden – Nursery Principal Lead



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