

# Alloway Primary School & EYC



## School Attendance



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- Every day of school helps your child enjoy and achieve. Help us to ensure your child is a successful learner, confident individual, effective contributor and a responsible citizen.

### What you can do?

- Make school attendance a priority at home
- Talk about the importance of going to school everyday, make that your expectation.
- Try not to make dental and medical appointments during the school day unless necessary.
- Try to avoid taking holidays during term time.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.
- Phone school office to inform school of reasons for every absence.

**Please speak to your child's teacher or HT/DHT if you are concerned about your child's attendance.**

**Please encourage good attendance.**

### Parental Responsibility

As a parent you are responsible for getting your child to school and making sure your child develops the habit of regular attendance. Attendance matters for doing well in school and in life. It starts with good habits in pre-school and nursery. Studies show too many days off in nursery and P1 can cause children to miss out on the essential building blocks for literacy and numeracy, and this can cause them to struggle later in their school years. It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.

### What if your child does not attend school regularly?

Where there is initial concern at school level regarding unexplained absences, schools will contact the parents/carers and request an explanation. If school staff remain concerned about the reasons given (or not) for a pupil's absence, or there has not been an improvement in attendance, the Head Teacher will arrange a meeting to discuss attendance. This may involve other appropriate agencies.

The Head Teacher has a responsibility to monitor attendance and will send out attendance letters where there is a concern.

If attendance issues continue, the case may be referred to the children's reporter.