

The Importance of School Attendance

Why Every Day Counts



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The Law

Parents have a legal duty to secure education for their children of compulsory school age whether at school or otherwise.

(Section 7 of The Education Act 1996)

If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school, a parent is guilty of an offence.

(Section 444 of the Education Act 1996)



Why Attendance Matters?

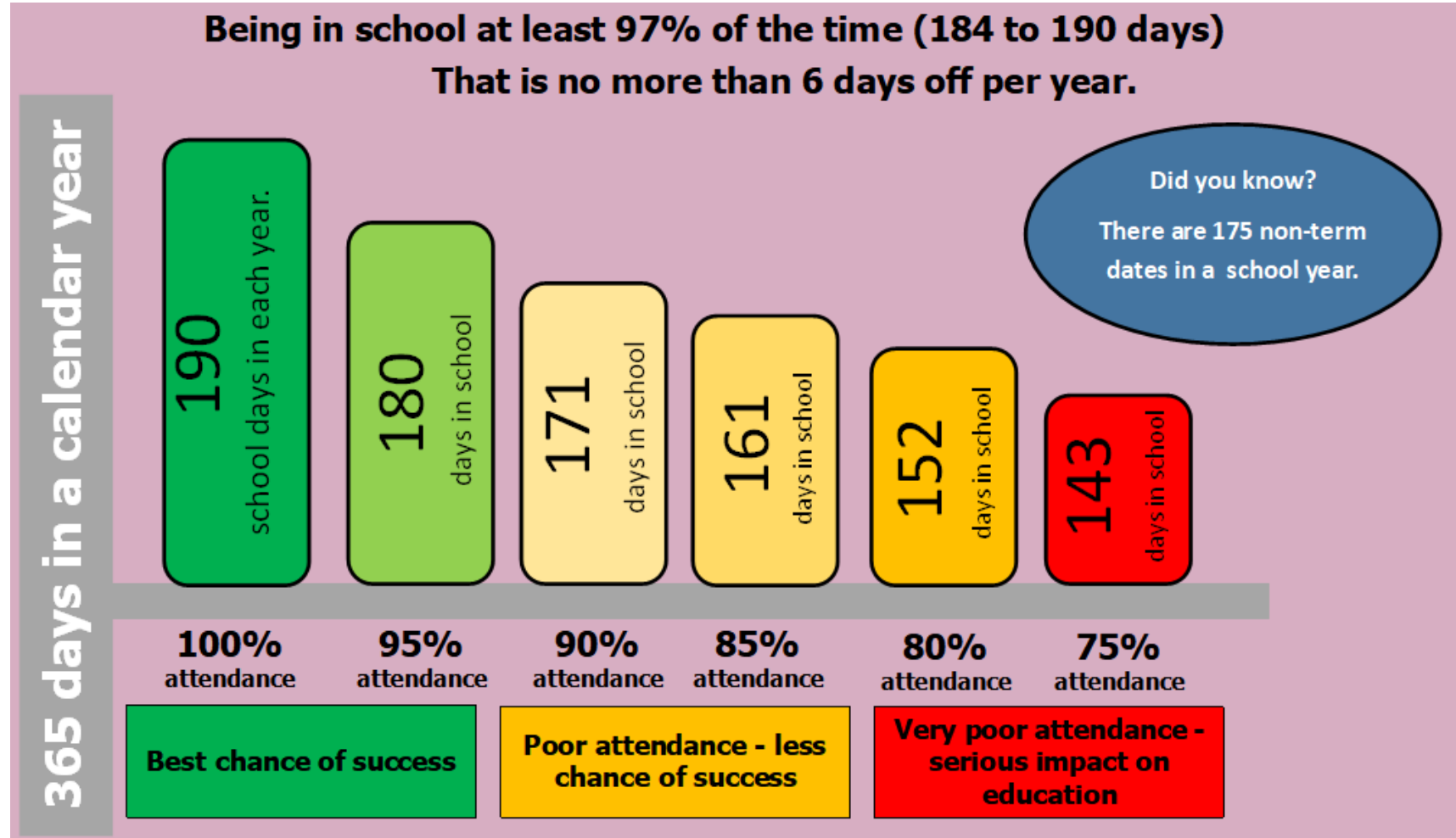


- Regular attendance is key to academic success.
- Consistent attendance helps build routines and responsibility.
- Children who attend school regularly are more likely to perform better in reading and math.



Impact of Absences

- Absences can disrupt learning.
- Missing just two days a month can add up to a significant loss of learning time.
- Chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days) is linked to lower academic performance.



Academic Benefits

Attend Today



Achieve Tomorrow



- Better grades and test scores.
- Stronger reading and math skills.
- Higher likelihood of high school success and college enrollment.



Social and Emotional Benefits

- Feeling connected to the school community.
- Building friendships and social skills.
- Developing a sense of belonging and confidence.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

When you're in school you...

- Have fun
- Make new friends
- Gain qualifications
- Achieve
- Develop new skills
- Experience new things
- Build your confidence & self esteem
- Develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences

Have the best possible start in life!

The infographic features a central figure of a person with arms raised, surrounded by icons for a trophy, a clock, a laptop, a magnifying glass, a scale of justice, a certificate, and a gear. Text boxes are connected to these icons by lines.



Common Causes of Absenteeism



How Can Parents Help?

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Prepare for school the night before.
- Ensure your child has a healthy breakfast.
- Schedule medical appointments outside of school hours if possible.
- Communicate with the school about any issues.



**We're here for
you evenings
and weekends**



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Should I Keep My Child off School?

- ✓ Minor coughs & cold
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Conjunctivitis
- ✓ Respiratory infections
- ✓ Ear infection
- ✓ Cold sores
- ✓ Tonsillitis
- ✓ Head lice

GO TO SCHOOL



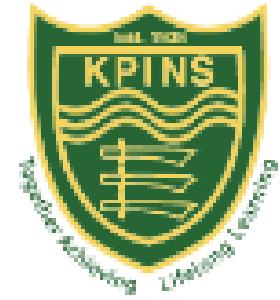
- ✗ Whooping cough
- ✗ High temperature
- ✗ Chickenpox
- ✗ Diarrhoea & vomiting
- ✗ Covid
- ✗ Flu
- ✗ Scarlet fever
- ✗ Measles

STAY AT HOME



School Support Systems

- Pupil Attendance Policy.
- Attendance incentives and support programs.
- Teachers and counselors working together to support attendance.
- Positive School climate.
- Working together with Harrow School Attendance Team.



Attendance Policy



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Encouraging good attendance

- Praise your child for attending school regularly.
- Discuss the importance of attendance with your child.
- Stay informed about your child's attendance record.
- Partner with the school to address any issues.



Lateness count's towards absence

Lost Minutes = Lost Learning

Bee On Time



Resources for parents

- School Attendance Policy
- DfE guidance
- Parentkind.org.uk
- Familylives.org.uk
- Harrow Council
- Hopeharrow.org.uk
- Youngharrowfoundation.org



Department
for Education



Parentkind
Bringing together home & school



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HOPE

Helping Families to Live and Learn Together



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Legal Action

Parenting Contracts

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 + The Education (Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders) Regulations 2007

- Are voluntary and should not be seen as punitive, but providing resources and solutions
- After the initial contact and plan, this contract focuses on attendance while promoting family strengths and capacity to make sustainable changes
- Addresses the issues behind the poor attendance and seeks to develop a productive relationship between parents, school and Early help to address the issues
- SEN needs to be taken into account by the school and all services involved

Education Supervision orders

The Children Act 1989 section 36

- Applied for in the family court under the Children Act 1989
- LA's are under a duty to consider apply for an ESO before starting legal proceedings against a parent
- Where parents are in a position to make improvements to their child's attendance, an ESO should be considered.
- The Court will appoint a supervisor to meet regularly with the parent & child.
- The parent will be expected to cooperate with any strategies proposed by the supervisor.



Parental Prosecution

Education Act 1996

- Section 444 (*non attendance*) Parents are liable for prosecution for “*failing to secure the regular attendance at school of a registered pupil*”
- Under the *absolute offence* (level 3) the parent can be found guilty even if they state that they are unaware the child is not attending
- Under the *aggravated offence* (level 4) the prosecution needs to show that the parent was aware of the poor attendance and did nothing about it. This offence carries the possibility of a custodial sentence.
- Section 443 SAO (*failure to comply with a School Attendance Order stating where they should enrol their child at school*)

Fixed Penalty Notices

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003+ The Education Act 1996

Local Authorities have the power to issue penalty notices in cases where parents or carers are considered capable of but unwilling to ensure their child’s attendance at school.



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Penalty notices – New National Threshold

The new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 2 siblings with unauthorised absence during term time may result in each parent being issued with one penalty notice per child.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence

**(within 3 years from the date of
issue of first penalty notice)**

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence

**(within 3 years from the date of
issue of first penalty notice)**

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

This is a criminal offence and a parent may end up with a criminal record.



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