

THE FACTS about ATTENDANCE

Research shows

- ◆ 17 missed school days equals a grade LOWER in GCSE results
- ◆ 90% of persistent non-attenders DO NOT achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- ◆ Employers want to recruit people who are reliable and have attended school regularly
- ◆ Poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime. The Audit Commission found that a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly
- ◆ Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour

A child who misses a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

- ◆ The Education Act 1996 states that parents and carers must ensure all children of compulsory school age (5-16) receive a full-time education that is suitable for their age, ability and aptitude and special educational needs
- ◆ As a parent you may be committing an offence if you fail to ensure that your child attends school regularly
- ◆ Once you have registered your child at a school it is your responsibility to make sure that she/he attends regularly and punctually
- ◆ If you fail to do so the Local Authority has a statutory duty to consider legal action to enforce school attendance. This may involve the issuing of a **penalty notice, prosecution** or application for an **Education Supervision Order**
- ◆ The Headteacher authorises absence depending on his/her belief that the reason given for absence by the parent/carer is justifiable and/or genuine

EDUCATION IS NOT AN OPTION—IT'S COMPULSORY

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

School holiday dates are published well in advance and parents are expected to plan and take their family holidays at this time so as not to disrupt their children's education.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence unless confirmation of permission has been given by the Deputy Headteacher and House Leader due to exceptional circumstances.

Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

PUNCTUALITY

The school, by law has to take a register of students first thing in the morning and afternoon. If a student is late but the register is still open they are marked as late. If a student arrives late and the register is closed, without a satisfactory explanation, it may be classed as an unauthorised absence. This may lead to legal action for not ensuring regular and punctual school attendance.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- ◆ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings
- ◆ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows school rules
- ◆ Ensure your child arrives at school on time—not late
- ◆ Arrange medical appointments outside school hours when possible
- ◆ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness
- ◆ Take truancy seriously—if your child is not attending as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk
- ◆ Talk to your child and take interest in school and homework
- ◆ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school
- ◆ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour and discuss any problems or difficulties with school