

# HOW MUCH DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL?

2022-23

## INTRODUCTION

Going to school regularly is crucial to your child's academic and social development. Therefore, it's really important that we work with you to settle your child into school quickly and ensure that they attend every day possible.



Just missing one or two days per month may not sound like much, but it can make a real difference to your child's future. It can slow your child's ability to learn to read and makes them less likely to do well in their GCSEs at secondary school (which will limit their lifetime earning potential).

## THE LEGAL BIT

Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly and can be fined and even imprisoned if they fail to do this.

Parents do not have a right to keep their child away from school without good reason. Legally there are only two reasons for keeping your child off school: illness or with the authorisation of the headteacher. In particular, parents have **no right** to take their child out of school for a holiday, unless it is with the permission of the headteacher (which is only given in extremely exceptional cases).

As for the current academic year, from September 2022, all unauthorised absences for the purpose of a holiday will continue to be referred to Warwickshire Attendance Service which may result in the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD



Please help your child to develop good attendance habits by talking to them about the importance of being at school regularly. Discuss any problems that they might have and let your child's teacher or headteacher know if you are at all concerned. Discourage time off school for minor medical ailments.

In the case of medical appointments for your child, please try and make these outside of school hours so that your child's education is not interrupted. GPs, opticians and hospitals are generally very helpful if you explain that your child doesn't want to miss school for an appointment. Children may not be absent from school to accompany a parent or sibling to an appointment.

The average child has less than 5 days absent from school per year and nearly one in ten school children do not have any days away from school each year. Although it may sound like a high percentage, **anything less than 97% attendance** is a cause of concern to us (that is just **5 days** in a whole academic year).

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT ATTENDANCE

We understand that there may be occasions when there are genuine difficulties in having your child attend school regularly and we are here to help. Attendance can be affected by:

- Transport to and from school
- Anxiety about attending school
- Work and money
- Sibling or family issues
- Poor or chronic health issue



In all of the above situations and more, we can help and support you. Please contact **school** to discuss how we can help. Please do not be worried or embarrassed about contacting us, we are here to support you and your child and will have come across similar issues before.

## ARRANGEMENTS IN OUR SCHOOL

If your child is unable to come to school due to illness, please let the academy know as soon as possible by **phoning school before 9 am**.

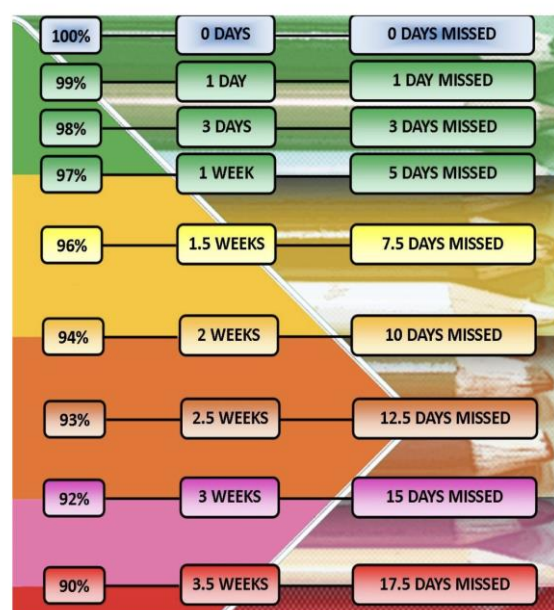
We acknowledge good attendance through positive acknowledgement, class and individual rewards. Going forward, each week your child will be informed by their teacher if they have a 'green arrow' for good / improved attendance.

At St Oswald's we will continue a real focus on attendance. Each pupil's attendance will now be monitored and reviewed every week.



## Attendance Matters

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| No risk                          | 97% - 100%  |
| Risk of underachievement         | 96% - 96.9% |
| Serious risk of underachievement | 94% - 95.9% |
| Severe risk of underachievement  | 90% - 93.9% |
| Extreme risk – Court action (PA) | 0% - 89.9%  |



Maximise your potential

Attend school every day