

Attendance at Abbey Hill

Every School Day Matters!

The academic and social benefits of good school attendance gives children the best start in life and beyond. Being on time matters too, as being late for school can be disruptive to children. We want children to be in school every day, on time and ready to learn. Following a change in statutory guidance on attendance in August 2024, we would like parents and carers to be aware of the following:



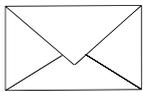
School will ask for all proof of all medical appointments taken during school time – please try to make these after school where possible.



The school gates open at 8:40am. **School starts at 8:50am.** Arrivals after this time are late. **Children who arrive after 9:30am are marked as unauthorised absences.**



If we have reason to doubt an absence, we may record it as unauthorised and may ask parents to provide proof of the absence. A member of school staff may also carry out a home visit.



Letters will be sent to families when attendance becomes a concern. School will work with families to ensure attendance concerns are addressed swiftly.



School will not authorise any holidays during term time unless under 'exceptional circumstances'. Please see school website for attendance policy.



There is a National Threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by schools. This is 10 sessions (1 session = ½ a day) of unauthorised absence within a 10 week rolling period.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the fine will be £80 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, payable within 28 days.

Third and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

A Penalty notice will not be issued. The case may be presented before a Magistrates Court.

Prosecution may result in criminal records and fines of up to £2500.

