

Attendance



Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated - pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education.

Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

The government expects:

Schools and Academies to:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence;
- Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled; and act early to address patterns of absence.
- Parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.
- All pupils to be punctual to their lessons.

Department for Education - excerpt taken from the 'School Attendance' document https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739764/Guidance_on_school_attendance_Sept_2018.pdf

Our School Aim

At **Hearsall Community Academy** we expect children to attend school every day, as long as they are as fit and healthy enough to do so.

Goal

Our goal this school year is to achieve an overall school percentage of 97% or above.

Why is Attendance important?

There is a strong link between regular school attendance and achievement and if your child is frequently absent from school they will not meet their full potential.

Regular attendance helps children to develop their confidence and to make lasting friendships. 90% attendance sounds good, but means that your child misses on average:

- One half day nearly every week
- Nearly four weeks every school year
- Over one school year in a school career

Missing School is Missing Out

- Ensure your child is in school on time every day
- Contact school on your child's first day of absence at the earliest opportunity to let us know why your child is going to be absent
- Try to make appointments outside of school hours where possible
- Holidays during term time should be avoided

School Support and Monitoring

- We monitor attendance weekly through the year and aim to meet with parents when attendance falls below 90% to offer support in order to improve attendance where possible.
- Some families may require an individual plan, to encourage their child to attend school regularly.
- If Attendance does not improve parents will be requested to attend a meeting with the Headteacher and Attendance Officer.
- If a child's attendance becomes very poor, below 85%, formalised external proceeding may take place and could involve large fines.

Authorising Absence

School will authorise absence for:

- Medical reasons (Where a doctor's note or prescription is provided, if attendance is below 90%)
- Illness, if authorised by an adult (and attendance is really good)
- Other circumstances (only agreed by the Head Teacher)

Absence will NOT be authorised if:

- No explanation is given by parent/carer
- The child's attendance is below 90% without medical proof
- The child is on holiday in term time

Taking a 2-week holiday during school time, even without any other absences, means that your child will only have 95% attendance.

PLEASE NOTE: IN LINE WITH COUNCIL POLICY, SCHOOL WILL NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS. Penalty Notices will be raised against unauthorised Holidays & absence.

Please see our [Attendance Policy](#).

