



Newton Burgoland Primary School



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Together We Can Achieve Excellence

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We are an outstanding school; Ofsted stated that - *Pupils enjoy coming to school and this is reflected in their high attendance rates, which contribute to them being exceedingly well prepared for secondary school.*

The following information is to help us work in partnership to make sure your child receives the education they deserve. Education is compulsory – the Government, not the school, decide the attendance rules.

Please read the attached Department of Education leaflet – 'School Attendance Matters, A Parent's Guide'. You will see from the chart 'Every School Day Counts' that attendance of 100% is considered Excellent, 95% is considered Satisfactory, 85% is considered Very Poor. If you are concerned about your child's attendance please talk to us before it becomes a problem; we can discuss attendance problems and agree a plan with you to improve your child's attendance.

We check the attendance of all our pupils each term. If a child's attendance starts to show concern parents will receive the following: -

- **Dropping below 95%** - a letter inviting parents to school to a meeting to discuss attendance, a copy of the child's registration certificate and DFE 'A Parent's Guide' to attendance. During the meeting we will discuss and agree a plan to improve attendance. Appropriate support will be offered to ensure that attendance improves.
- **Attendance of 90% (Poor) or below** – parents will be sent a letter informing them that they have been referred to Paula Rene from Children's Attendance Welfare Services Ltd our chosen Education Welfare Officer.

Arriving at School Late

Late arrivals, after registers are closed, are recorded as an absence on the attendance system used by Leicestershire

Family holidays during term-time

Changes in government policy mean that holidays in term time can no longer be granted, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parental requests for term-time holidays must be made in advance, in writing addressed to the head teacher or by making an appointment in person. Taking a child on holiday without permission would be regarded as unauthorised absence. Parents who do so may be issued with a Penalty Notice by Leicestershire Local Authority, please see Leicestershire County Council Pupil Services Court Team (link below).

Please do not be offended if your holiday request is refused; Head Teacher's are carrying out their legal obligation as a representative of the Local Authority and DFE.

For more information please see the following: -

<http://www.newburland.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=31>

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview>

http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/going_to_school/school_admissions_and_pupil_services/pupil_services/court_team.htm



Department of
Education

www.deni.gov.uk

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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS **A Parent's Guide**





WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT –

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- ☑ To learn.
- ☑ To have fun.
- ☑ To make new friends.
- ☑ To experience new things in life.
- ☑ To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- ☑ To achieve.
- ☑ To gain qualifications.
- ☑ To develop new skills.
- ☑ To build confidence and self-esteem.
- ☑ To have the best possible start in life.



**Miss School -
Miss Out!!**



Key Point

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.





HOW PARENTS CAN HELP –

- ☑ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ☑ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- ☑ Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- ☑ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- ☑ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- ☑ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- ☑ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ☑ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- ☑ Attend parent evenings and school events.
- ☑ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- ☑ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ☑ Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.



Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.





WHAT THE LAW SAYS –

Under Article 45 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (“the 1986 Order”), it is the duty of parents who have a child of compulsory school age¹ to ensure their child receives efficient, full time education suitable to their age, aptitude, ability and to any special educational needs they may have. Such education may be provided by regular attendance at school or otherwise, for example home education.

Paragraph 3 (1) of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order states that it is the duty of a parent of a registered pupil of a school to secure their regular attendance at school. This applies to all children of compulsory school age who are on the roll of a school. As a parent you are legally responsible for making this happen.

Under Part III of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order, if a child or young person who is registered at a school does not attend regularly, a parent can receive a fine not exceeding £1,000 in court (for each child). An Education Supervision Order (ESO) could also be made by a court under Article 55 of the Children (NI) Order 1995.

Key Point

Education is not an option – it's compulsory.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS –



You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child or young person who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work.

In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence.

Key Point

Avoid taking family holidays during the school term.

¹ www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/admission-and-transport/pupils-and-classes/compulsory-school-age.htm



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.

