

Did you know..?

Children spend only 190 days out of 365 in school.

Children who lose time from school do not do as well as they could.

There is never a good time to take children away from their lessons especially:

- When children have important tests and coursework to complete for example Years 1, 2 & 6.
- When they move from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.
- When they move from Primary to Secondary School

It is not true

- That they catch up. Research shows that by missing lessons, pupils soon fall behind. Lessons they miss are not repeated at a later date.
- That you automatically have 10 days extra school holiday each year.
- That for younger children, lost schooling does not matter. It is just the opposite!

Every School Day Counts - Always

Parents/carers who take their children out of school during term time without the Head Teacher's authorisation:

- risk losing their child's place at the school
- risk being taken to court or being given a fixed penalty fine if their child's attendance is generally poor
- risk their child's future
- risk their child feeling left behind or left out.

Stop and think what it will cost your child – every lesson counts!



Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School

Striving for excellence; caring for the individual.

ATTENDANCE GUIDANCE

REWARDS FOR GOOD ATTENDANCE

Following discussion at Parent Forum, we will reward good attendance in the following ways:
Each half term:

- Stickers for 96%+ attendance
- Certificates for 100%

At the end of the year, children with perfect attendance will be invited to afternoon tea with Mrs. Burgess.

To send ... or not to send?

Often a child will wake in the morning saying they are unwell. Whilst we do not want children in school who are genuinely unwell, please send them when they are just 'a little under the weather'. We will always contact you if they get worse during the day.

Please do not send your child if s/he has an infectious illness, like chicken pox, measles, etc. Genuine illness will always be authorised.

To prevent infecting others, children who have diarrhoea or vomiting must stay away from school for 48 hours after the last bout. This applies to adults too!

Regular Attendance Means Punctual Attendance

Doors open 8:45am
Doors close 8:50am

Arrival after 8:50 is marked as late.

Arrival after 9:15 is marked as unauthorised absence.

Government Expectations

The government defines good attendance as 96%. This means only eight days absence per child per year for any reason. OFSTED will only judge a school to be good if it has 96% overall attendance or higher.

Things to think about

10 days absence every year for 12 years is equivalent to missing two whole terms. Imagine the potential impact on GCSE results ... or job prospects ... and life chances.

In our school last year, 43% of the children who were absent for family holidays needed extra help to catch up – this means taking away support from the children who have not been absent. Our children think this is unfair.

Unacceptable reasons for absence:

shopping
waiting in for a delivery
family birthday
visits from relatives
family outings
no-one to drop off/collect
incorrect uniform
family holidays
tiredness
sibling unwell
parent unwell/has an appointment
headlice

Teachers cannot teach children who are absent.

What our children say about absence

I worry my friends will have changed or someone will have left.
I'm always happy to come back, I don't like missing learning.
I feel confused because I've missed learning and it's hard to catch up.
I feel annoyed when I have to wait for my friends to catch up because they have been off – it makes me bored.
I hate explaining to my friends why I've been off, it gets frustrating.
I feel left out if there's a new playground craze and I don't know about it.

Being late once a week may seem like nothing but what would your boss say if you were late 20% of the time?

Children are not responsible for getting themselves to school on time – parents are. If a child is late for school, it is a reflection on his or her parents, not the child.

For parents who are finding it difficult, we can offer support from the School Family Worker or free parenting classes at the children's centre.

When a child arrives late, the teacher has to stop and help the child catch up and everyone else has to wait. Why should other children miss out?

A child who arrives late is always embarrassed – they are put in this position by their parents.

Unacceptable reasons for lateness:

clock was slow
lost house keys
playing up
walking too slow
running late
weather
lie in
traffic

What our children say about lateness

I worry because when I miss the start of the day it makes my work harder.
I feel like I've let my friends down.
I get embarrassed; my tummy goes funny and it feels bad.
I get cross with myself for being late and then I can't concentrate.
I hate it when all my friends turn round and look at me and it's not my fault I'm late.
I start the day worried because I know I'll miss something important.