

## Practicalities

- You need to make attendance a priority.
- It is parent's responsibility to contact the school to report any absences. It is also good practice to send a note into school upon your child's return, explaining the reason for absence.
- Your child should return to school as soon as she/he is able to do so.
- If you suspect your child is not attending school, telephone the school so a check can be made.
- If you have ANY concerns about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## Holidays

In total there are 175 non-school days a year. This gives families the opportunity to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits and days out
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Attend routine appointments

Authorisation for absences in term time is only given if there are exceptional circumstances. It is important that you ask the school before you book a holiday.

Please note that if your child has a holiday of 2 weeks during term time and has a 1 week of illness they would miss 75 hours of education in an academic year. If this pattern were to be repeated throughout your child's school life they would miss almost a whole year of their education

Did you know?

If your child attends school 100% they will be able to make the best of all the opportunities available to them

Children who attend above 90% are more than likely to gain 5 or more A-C GCSE's or equivalent qualifications

If your child has 90% attendance over the whole 11 years at school they will have missed over 1 year's education!

91.1% attendance = missing 17 days of school in one year

Missing 17 days a year also means dropping 1 GCSE grade (on average)

Children with less than 85% attendance are unlikely to gain 5 A-C GCSE's or any qualifications.

82.1% attendance = missing 34 days of school in one year

If your Child has 80% attendance over the whole 11 years at school they will miss over TWO year's education!

Poor attendance like this will have a serious impact on education and life chances

**Please remember – schools can only teach those who attend**



# ATTENDANCE

The Bridges Federation is part of the Downham Market Academy Cluster and Kings Lynn Academy Cluster of schools and we are committed to good school attendance because it is important for children:

- To have full and efficient education
- To embrace equal opportunities
- To enjoy education
- To prepare for the world of work and lifelong learning

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

**Punctual and regular school attendance is an essential requirement for successful learning from the time a child starts school.**

**Absences in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.**

## Full & Efficient Education

- It is never too early to learn good habits, school is training for life.
- Every absence leads to a break in learning.
- Schools do not have empty days and missed work cannot always be caught up.
- Schools will not provide work to do during absences.

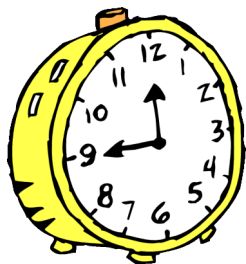
## Embrace Equal Opportunities

- Truancy/unsupervised absences can put children at risk.
- Persistent absentees are statistically more likely to become teenage parents, unemployed or homeless, or to engage in petty crime or drug abuse. Good attendees are less likely to fall into these dangers. A persistent absentee is child who misses on average one day of school each week throughout the academic year.

## Enjoy Education

Good attendance means that your child:

- Meet other people.
- Makes and keeps friends.
- Learn social skills.



## Prepare for the world of work and life-long learning

- Your child's attendance records are passed on through all their school and to prospective employers/colleges.
- It is vital that good punctuality and attendance patterns are established at an early age – all future employers/colleges will expect this

## Punctuality is a good thing!

Being on time:

- Gets the day off to a good start with everyone in apposite frame of mind.
- Sets positive patterns for the future.
- Helps your child to make the most of his/her learning.
- Helps children to develop a sense of responsibility both to themselves and others.
- Leads to success and self confidence.

Arriving at school 10 minutes late every day for a week results in 50 minutes of lost learning. If repeated over a year this results in almost 1½ weeks missed education

Arriving late causes embarrassment and anxiety to children. Think about how you would feel if you had to walk into a room full of people and all eyes turned to you?

Arriving a few minutes late **DOES** affect your child's chances to learn.

## The Law:

The Education Act 1996 requires parents to ensure their children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education.

The law says that parents/carers whose children of compulsory school age are absent from school without good reason are committing an offence.

Unauthorised absence includes:

- Arriving after the register has closed.
- All day dental/medical appointments.
- Birthdays.
- Shopping – even for school clothes.
- Extended family holidays (unless there are exceptional circumstances)
- Looking after sick relatives or younger children.

You need to be aware that, although you may provide a reason for absence, it is the school which decides if the absence is recorded as authorised or unauthorised.

## The Consequences

- Your child misses out on the education they are legally entitled to.
- School staff meet regularly with the Local Authority Attendance Improvement Office to discuss individual children's attendance and decide strategies.
- Parents who are seen to fail in their duty can be issued with a Penalty Notice – currently £60 to £120 per child per parent, and /or brought before a Magistrates Court where a maximum £2,500 fine and/or a prison sentence can be imposed.