



High Peak Federation



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Attendance Review

Dear Parents,

All schools have a statutory responsibility to ensure pupil attendance is consistently good and we therefore monitor the attendance of our pupils closely. Education Welfare Service and Ofsted both require us to follow-up cases of persistent absence, due to the detrimental effects such absences have on a child's educational development.

Prior to Covid-19 we worked closely with families to ensure attendance was good. However, the impact of the pandemic meant that schools could not effectively raise concerns regarding patterns of low attendance. Since September 2022 the Department for Education has asked schools to again prioritise good attendance, as National attendance figures return to pre Covid-19 levels. It is also important that attendance is good, as children 'catch-up' from time lost during the pandemic.

The important attendance figures to recognise are:

- 100% - this is exceptional attendance.
- Above 95% - this is the expected attendance for pupils and is the current National Average for Primary aged pupils, as well as the current school average.
- Above 90%, but below 95% - this falls below expected attendance, but above persistent absence.
- Below 90% - this is the attendance figure that is recognised as persistent absence (as this equates to a day of absence every two weeks). Schools are required to follow-up all cases of persistent absence to seek improvements. If attendance improves to above persistent absence in the next review period, this avoids further escalation. However, if persistent absence does not improve we may need to refer cases to Derbyshire County Council.

Every ten weeks we will provide you with an attendance breakdown and next week we will share these with you. Attached will be a letter linked to the above guidance and your child's attendance since September 2022.

We recognise that there are reasons why attendance may be lower for any given ten-week period. This could be due to some of the following reasons:



- Your child has a chronic health condition that adversely affects their attendance. In these cases, it is important that parents share with us the medical documentation that helps us to understand better the needs of the child / reasons for absence.
- Your child has experienced an acute illness / medical procedure. In this case, we would expect attendance to improve in subsequent review periods as children should not continue to be unwell.
- Some children with diagnosed SEND (especially ASD) are more affected by illnesses and their ability to cope when they are feeling unwell. It could be a legitimate reason for staying at home, if being at school would result in greater anxiety and an inability to manage. However, it could also be considered that a reduced attendance on that day may be an alternative too.
- Term-time holidays will affect your child's attendance. We are unable to authorise term-time holiday requests unless they meet exceptional circumstances, so fines are likely to follow. Please be aware that multiple term-time holidays may result in escalating prosecutions.

The chart below shows the effect of education lost through absences.

Attendance Percentage	Days absent from school in a year	Days absent from school during Primary school	Days absent from school up to Year 13
95%	10	70 – equivalent to over a term	140 – equivalent to over two terms
90%	20	140 – equivalent to over two terms	280 – equivalent to a year and a half
85%	30	210 – equivalent to a year and four weeks	420 – equivalent to two years and eight weeks
80%	40	280 – equivalent to a year and a half	560 – equivalent to almost three years
75%	50	350 – equivalent to almost two years	700 – equivalent to three years and two and a half terms

Children missing significant time from school achieve less well as their learning is regularly interrupted, they often find forming consistent friendships a challenge and they do not establish good habits around attendance in further education / in the workplace when they are adults.

We want to be supportive in ensuring good attendance is achieved, so please get in touch with us if you require further assistance.

Many Thanks,

Mr Parry and the High Peak Federation Team

