

Attendance and Punctuality



Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life.

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

All parents want the best for their children and a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life, If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. Educational knowledge is built on daily and in a busy school day it can be difficult for schools to find extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's friendships; a vital part of growing up.

What happens if your child does not attend school regularly?

Schools are responsible by law for reporting poor attendance to the Local Authority (LA). As a parent, you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly. This can result in being issued a penalty notice or being taken to court.

Encouraging Good Attendance

- Having a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Preparing by setting out uniform and packing bags the night before.
- Talking together about all the fun they will have at school.
- Arranging routine medical appointments, outings and holidays outside of school hours.
- **Talking to staff at school if there are any concerns or anxieties.**

We are here to help!

Why is punctuality so important?

Being on time is vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class. Lessons start at 9am. Coming in late could mean your child misses teacher input, increased anxiety, their partner may have moved to work with someone else and they are not ready for learning.

What might the impact of poor attendance be?

Research shows less than 65% of children achieve good results in English and Maths with an average of 15 days absence a year compared to almost 90% where the average is less than 8 days. Other impacts include: greater anxiety, more likely to be ill, low engagement, low self-esteem, behaviour declines, more likely to underachieve.

'The World is run by those who turn up.'

In most cases in life, 93% is good, however with attendance to school, this is poor. We expect at least 96% to determine a good attendance, with the obvious 100% being excellent. Any missed learning means it needs to be addressed. All learning is progressive, meaning gaps grow quickly and are hard to narrow and catch up.

90% attendance = 4 weeks/year missed.

80% attendance = More than ½ term missed/year.

80% or less over school career = 2 years or more missed

100%

96%

95%

93%

90%

86%

82%

78%

75%

70%

Please contact school by 9:00am if your child is going to be absent that day. We have a duty of care to ensure absent children are safe. Our attendance and punctuality policy can be found on the school website.

[School Policies](#) | [Bentham CP School](#) | [North Yorkshire](#)