

## Authorised Absences

- Only keep your child home off school if:  
...he or she is genuinely too ill to attend.

## Unauthorised Absences

- You should not keep your child from school or allow him/her to stay at home:
  - ...to go shopping
  - ...to visit relatives
  - ...for birthdays
  - ...because you got up late
  - ...because they don't want to go or you don't feel like accompanying them

## Holidays taken in term time

- Please don't take your child out of school for holidays.
  - ...you do not have an automatic right to withdraw your child for holidays
  - ...10 school days taken for holidays in one academic year means your child will only have 94% attendance

## **WHAT ARE THE RULES ABOUT ATTENDANCE?**

Parents have to make sure their children aged 5-16 years receive full time education and that they attend regularly and stay in school. (Section 7 of the Education Act 1996)

- **It's the LAW!** Parents can be taken to court for breaking this law. (Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996)

**"Parents should ensure that their children arrive at school on time, properly attired and in condition to learn."**

The Act also mentions that:

**"Parents need to see themselves as partners with schools in the education of their children. This includes making sure that pupils complete homework on time and that their children keep the school rules."**

If my attendance is 80% what does it mean?

If my attendance is 80% in year 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10 & 11 you will have missed one entire year of school; 1170 lessons or 975 hours or a massive 58,500 minutes!

## **SO LETS WORK TOGETHER**

You can always talk to your child's head-teacher or head of year.

They want to work with you to get the best for your child.

Contact No : \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's school has an allocated Education Welfare Officer who visits the school regularly to monitor the attendance of pupils

Your child's Education Welfare Officer is :-

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact No : \_\_\_\_\_



# School Attendance Matters...



Why should I go to school?  
Because I want to

... learn new skills

... get a job

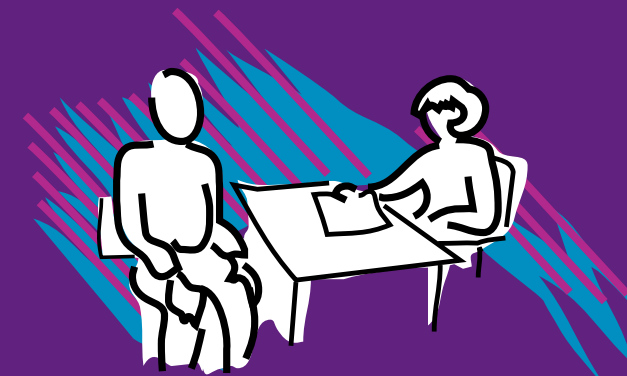
... attend further education or higher education

... find out more about the world

... be happy with my friends

... be able to work with others

... develop new interests



School gives lasting friendships,  
important social skills, opportunities,  
choices and experiences.

## Why does coming to school every day matter?

- If you don't come to school regularly:
  - ... you don't know how to do the work
  - ... you get left behind
  - ... you lose touch with school life
  - ... you feel a bit left out
  - ... you have to make friends again
- Do you know?
  - ... your school is judged by your attendance
  - ... your progress is severely affected if your attendance is poor
- 3 days missed in a half term means less than 91% attendance

## SO REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REALLY DOES MATTER



## What can you do as a parent to help your child have good attendance?

- ... you have to believe that it really matters.
- ... you have to care about your child's education
- Make sure your child:
  - ... has a reasonable bedtime
  - ... start good habits early (arrive on time and keep to school rules)
  - ... keeps a diary of homework and things to remember
  - ... check what they need for the next school day
  - ... put their clothes and equipment out ready for the next day
  - ... has his or her own alarm clock
- If your child is to be absent
  - ... inform the school as soon as possible on the first day of any absence
  - ... always send notes to school to explain an absence
- It helps if parents:
  - ... take an interest in school work
  - ... find out from school what they can do to help
  - ... praise their children's efforts
  - ... make it known that they don't approve of poor attendance, lateness or missing school
  - ... support school in encouraging good behaviour

## What We Can Do

We want to work with you and your child to provide advice, guidance and practical help in getting your child to school regularly.

We can give advice and guidance on :-

- Attendance problems
- Truancy
- Punctuality
- Bullying
- Social and Emotional problems
- Behavioural issues
- School transfers
- Exclusions
- Child Employment
- Alternative education
- Your legal responsibilities
- Parent / school contact
- Getting help from other agencies / organisations

if your child is experiencing problems at school.

