

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2020/2021

We want to maintain a high standard of attendance and believe all children should be achieving at least 95% and above. We can only achieve this with parent/carer support. **It more vital now than ever before that every child attends each session that they are required to be in school.**

Good attendance is recognised and rewarded at Townsend.

Why is it important for children not to miss school? What does the Government say?

Nowadays it is more important than ever to have a good education if young people want opportunities in adult life. Children only get one chance at school and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable and are easily drawn into crime. Research also shows that there is a close correlation between attendance and achievement. As a parent/carer you are responsible for making sure your child attends school regularly and has the best opportunities for success in school and beyond school.

Authorised absence

There may be times your child has to miss school because he or she is ill. When your child is ill you must notify the school on the first day of absence by ringing the school office 01727 853047. There may also be exceptional circumstances for a day or part day of authorised absence such as an orthodontic appointment but we do ask wherever possible that routine medical/health appointments should take place during school holidays or after school hours. Where there is ongoing absence for a medical reason the school will require evidence from the GP or Consultant.

Poor Attendance and Persistent Absence

The school has high expectations for attendance and aims for 95%+ from all its students. Persistent Absence is where a child's attendance falls below 90%. The Form Tutor and Director of Year would want to explore with the family what the problem is and offer support to address the situation. However where there is no impact of this and there is no medical evidence to support ongoing non-attendance, the school would seek the intervention from the Local Authority Attendance Improvement Officer who visits the school regularly. If the student fails to attend school regularly without a legitimate reason and attempts by the Attendance Improvement Officer and the school fail to secure that pupil's return to regular attendance, the County Council will take legal action. This will initially involve a legal process of a Fixed Penalty Fine authorised by the Local Authority but could lead to further legal action if absence continues.

Holidays in term time are not allowed. Amendments to the 2006 Pupil Registration (England) Regulations which came into effect on 1st September 2013 remove all references to family holidays and extended leave for holidays in term time. The amendments make clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

We need you as parents/carers to

- Ensure your child attends school daily and arrives at school on time
- Contact the school on the day of any absence with details of the absence
- Limit any medical appointments taken through school hours
- Talk to the school promptly if you are struggling to get your child into school so we can help

We do ask that you look at our Attendance Policy on our website and also refer to information on this important subject (<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>).