



Coming to school helps us learn and gives us a better future.

There are lots of different reasons why school is important. School helps us to improve our literacy and maths; it teaches us history, art and geography. It helps us to find things out, shows us what we are good at and how to improve. It builds our learning power and teaches us to succeed. A better education helps us to get a job.

We are constantly striving to get better in our attendance. To do so we need the help of our children, parents and carers.

Did you know that children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:-

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Get into bad routines that can affect them getting or keeping a job later in life.

We monitor attendance figures and punctuality regularly. Our admin staff follow up absences we have not received a reason for after 9.30am each day.

The Head or member of the Senior Leadership Team would undertake a house visit, if we do not hear from a family after two days absence.

If a child is regularly late or has attendance less than 95% without a clear reason, parents will be contacted via letter or phonecall. We will work to support parents to improve their child's attendance.

**Achieving good attendance requires the school and home to work closely together. Therefore, we ask parents to:**

Arrive at school between 8.45am and 8.55am

If you are late, enter school via the school office

Show your child that you are interested in what they have done at school

Get everything ready the night before school

Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays

Notify school as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent and then daily to confirm absence needs to continue

If your child suffers sickness, remain absent until 24hrs without a bout or 48hrs if it is diarrhoea.

Remember it is:

Parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where they are of compulsory school age.

Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.

At the availability of schools to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

## WHAT'S ACCEPTABLE, WHATS NOT?

### Authorised Absences

We cannot legally authorise any leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. These are:

- ☒ a child is ill or receiving medical attention
- ☒ a child has been advised to self-isolate after a positive PCR test
- ☒ day of religious observance, notified in advance (the day must be exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents belong)
- ☒ absence due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. bereavement, serious illness)

There are other absences, such as approved sporting activities that can be authorised if your child's attendance is above average.

Routine medical and dental appointments should be arranged out of school hours wherever possible.

### Unauthorised Absences

These are absences where:

- ☒ No telephone call/letter or acceptable explanation is provided by parent(s)/carers;
- ☒ The reason for the absence does not fall into one of the categories of authorised absence above;
- ☒ Arriving to school after 9.30am.

### Holidays

Family holidays will not be authorised during term time. New legislation does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. If you do take your child on holiday during term time this may result in a Penalty Notice Fine. Penalty Notice Fines for holidays in term time are £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days.

### Punctuality

*Regular attendance means punctual attendance.*

Just being a few minutes late can leave children feeling anxious and unsettled for the first half of their school day which can be detrimental to their learning.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days

## Attendance Figures

Christ Church Attendance Rate is currently 97%. It was down to 95% last academic year. We are usually between 97 and 98%.

**Children are required to attend school for 190 days each year. The LA average target for attendance in schools is at least 95%**

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS DAYS ABSENT	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH MEANS THIS NUMBER OF LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

**Thank you for looking at this information and supporting your child with their attendance:**

**ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW**