

How does absence from school affect YOUR child's GCSE results?

GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their child's GCSE results
- affect their desire to attend school regularly
- affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships
- a child who is absent for one day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life.
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all.

If you need any further advice please contact our Family Support Worker, Mrs Marsh on 01604 842958.

If your child falls below 90% attendance they will become a 'persistent absentee', which may then result in a referral being made to the Local Authority Education Inclusion Team.

If you wish to request time off **YOU MUST** complete a 'Leave of Absence' form AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS before your date of departure.

All absence forms are authorised at the Principal's discretion.

Failure to complete a form will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised.

'Leave of Absence' forms are available from the school office and there is an electronic version on our website.



SUNNYSIDE
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Information for Parents and Carers

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Attendance - the law.

The law says that parents DO NOT have the right to take their children out of school during term time for holidays. In exceptional circumstances, however, school can give permission for parents to take their children out of school.

If you take holiday or leave **without** the school's permission or if a child fails to return on the agreed date this will be recorded as unauthorised absence (truancy) and noted on the child's attendance record.

Penalty Notices

These are processed after a child has been absent due to taking unauthorised holiday or unexplained and unaccounted for prolonged or repeated absence. If you do not pay the penalty within 21 days the fine will double. After a further 28 days, if there is non-payment you could face court action.

All requests for absences should be completed on a 'Leave of Absence' form, available from the school office.

If your child has a medical appointment (in school time) you will need to provide an appointment letter where possible.

Together Everyone Achieving More

Every Academy Day Counts!

We recognise that it is expensive to have holidays during school breaks and that some parents may ask for term time leave for their children. However, cost pressures **CANNOT** be used as a valid and permitted exceptional circumstance.

It is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time.

There are only 190 days where children **MUST**, by law, be in school. This means that if a child misses just 8 school days - they are out of school for more days of the year than they are in school.

There are 175 days of breaks and weekends every year.

THERE ARE 175 HOLIDAY DAYS AND WEEKENDS FOR:

- Family holidays
- Shopping
- Birthday treats
- Non-urgent dental and medical appointments

Attendance

Good Attendance = Higher Grades

| % Attendance | Attendance Days | Absence |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 100% | 190 | None |
| 95% | 180 | 2 weeks |
| 90% | 171 | 4 weeks |
| 85% | 161 | 6 weeks |
| 80% | 152 | ½ term |
| 75% | 143 | 9 weeks + |