

Bearwood Primary School

Parents' Presentation on Attendance

What the government expects from schools:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence – including persistent absence.
- Ensure every child has access to full-time education to which they are entitled.
- Act early to address patterns of absence.

Parents must ensure their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.

DfE (July 2019)

What the law expects:

- Schools must keep a register of every child's attendance.
- Schools must follow up on any absences, and record the reasons.
- If a child arrives late, but before the register closes, they are marked as 'L' late.
- If a child arrives late after the register has closed, they are marked 'U' which is an unauthorised absence code.
- Schools must notify the Local Authority if a child appears 'missing in education.'

DfE (July 2019)

If your child is not well

- If your child is really not well enough to come into school, contact the school office via phone or email on the first day of absence to let us know.
- You must contact the school office on each day of absence.
- If you do not contact the school, the school will make attempts to contact you. In the meantime, your child's absence will be recorded as unauthorised.



Pupils should aim
to have **96% or
above** attendance

90% is **not** good!

1 School Year @
90%

attendance=**4**
whole weeks of
lessons missed!

That's **100**
HOURS OF
LEARNING
MISSED!

Attendance Ladder

Equates To:



Our School Targets:

- **Attendance to be in line with or above national average.**
- **Persistent absence to be below national average.**

This is an important Ofsted focus for the school.

Our whole school attendance target for this academic year is 96%

Requests for special leave

- Requests for absences for special events can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Headteacher.
- Requests for holidays will not be authorised.
- Parents who take their children on holiday during term time are at risk of being issued with a penalty notice.

BPS Procedures for tackling poor absence:

- Every child's attendance is monitored daily.
- If your child's attendance falls below 90%, you will receive a first letter of concern.
- After half a term, if there has been no improvement, you will receive a second letter of concern.
- After half a term, if there is still no improvement, you will be invited to attend an Attendance Panel Meeting. The panel will consist of the Chair of the Governors' Pupils, Parents and Community Committee; the Headteacher and a member of the school administrative staff.

Implications

- At all stages of the school's procedures, the Education Welfare Officer is informed.
- The purpose of the Attendance Panel is to find out why the child has poor attendance, and offer support where possible.
- If, after implementing all of the school's procedures, a child continues to have poor attendance with no improvement, the school will refer the case to the Education Welfare Service.

Rewards for excellent attendance

All children who attend school every day will be awarded attendance medals:

- A bronze medal for one full term of 100% attendance.
- A silver medal for two full terms of 100% attendance.
- A gold medal for three full terms of 100% attendance.

