



'Love of Learning, Love of Life, Love of Christ!'
Our Core Christian Values: Respect, Effort, Aim High, Honesty,
Care and Love.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Church of England (Controlled) Primary School.
Headteacher: Mr Gareth Dee BScEcon (Hons) PGCE

Attendance Information Letter

26th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

As you may have heard in the news, school attendance across the country has been a real issue with many children either not attending school regularly or being classified as a persistent absentee (less than 90% attendance). Since the pandemic, the figures have increased considerably; persistent absenteeism has increased from 13% in 2020/21 to over 24% in 2022/23. Although absence in our school is well below these figures, we have seen a steady increase in the number of persistent absentees in the last two years with 10.2% of our children being recorded as persistent absentees. As a school, we are held to account for this absence; it is certainly one of the many areas of a school that Ofsted will look at carefully. As we are at the start of another academic year, I thought I would share some of statistics regarding absence and punctuality.

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading. For some parents 90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance. However, the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a day of school each week or 19 days of school during the school year. That is nearly four school weeks.

The table below shows the amount of lost learning a child may have by missing school.

100% attendance	Zero days missed	Perfection!
99% attendance	Two days of absence across the year	Excellent!
97% attendance	Five days of absence across the year	Good
95% attendance	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed.	Satisfactory
90% attendance	Nineteen days of absence across the year; three weeks and four days of learning missed	Poor
85% attendance	Twenty-eight days of absence across the year: five weeks and three days of learning missed.	Very Poor
80% attendance	Thirty-eight days of absence across the year: seven weeks and 3 days of learning missed.	Unacceptable
75% attendance	Forty-six days of absence across the year: nine weeks and one day of learning missed.	Unacceptable



SCHOOL
MEMBER



Punctuality

Please could you also help us by arriving at school on time to ensure the children have the best start to the day. Even being 5 minutes late per day can add up to 3.4 school days missed.

Minutes Late Per Day	How Many School Days/Weeks Missed In 1 Year
5 minutes late	3.4 school days missed a year
10 minutes late	1.4 school weeks missed a year
15 minutes late	2.6 school weeks missed a year
20 minutes late	2.8 school weeks missed a year
30 minutes late	4 school weeks missed a year

Absences

Holidays during term time are not authorised and holidays taken during term time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Any child absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work. There are only 190 statutory school days leaving plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time. If a child is absent for 10 sessions (unauthorised absence) within a 100 day period, we have to issue a penalty notice. All of the penalty notices we have issued over the past two years have been for family holidays within term time.

I fully understand that children are ill from time to time and we have certainly seen a few bugs go through the school, especially through the winter months. If your child is ill, please do contact the school office and let us know, explaining the reason why your child is absent. This will be recorded as authorised absence.

Thank you for reading this letter, your help and support in ensuring your child is at school, and on time, as much as possible is greatly appreciated. It really does make a difference to their progress and outcomes in learning.

Yours Sincerely,

Gareth Dee
Headteacher

