

The Importance of Good Attendance

In recent years a lot of research has been carried out on the importance of good attendance and the effect that poor attendance can have on children's attainment and their future life chances.

For example, 90% attendance might sound quite acceptable but what that means in reality is.....

- On average half a day's school missed every week (would an employer accept this as an acceptable rate of attendance?)
- In one year 4 whole weeks of schooling missed
- In five years **half of a school year** missed.
- A GCSE grade drop in attainment in each subject



The better the attendance, the greater the achievement.

Across Dorset schools there is a clear pattern:

- If a student is absent for less than one day a month they have an 87% chance of getting 5A*- C at GCSE.
- If a student is absent for less than one day in a fortnight they have a 75% chance of getting 5A*-C.
- If a student is absent once a week or more they have only a 20% chance of getting 5A*-C.



Habits of poor attendance and lateness in school are often repeated in working life. Poor attendance in the work place cost the UK £12 billion in 2003. One billion hours of teaching time was missed by children in the UK in that same year!

This is why Verwood CE First school is making good attendance at school an absolute priority. By improving our attendance rate we will improve the standards that our children achieve and provide for them better chances in life.

In the coming year we aim to raise our attendance rate to above 95%. We can only achieve this with your full support.



What Can Parents Do To Help?

- If you feel that your son/daughter is unhappy at school please contact the school via their teacher as quickly as possible. This will ensure that we can work together to solve any issues before they become a big obstacle to attendance.
- Ensure that your son/daughter attends school regularly, arrives on time, follows the uniform guidelines and brings the necessary equipment for the day.
- Talk with your son/daughter about the importance of good attendance at school and how it

can affect their future.

- If at all possible try to keep medical appointments outside of the school day, inform the school well in advance if this is not possible.
- Only grant days at home for genuine illness – you know your child
- Do not take your son/daughter on holiday during term time.
- Praise and reward good attendance.

Reporting Absence

If your son / daughter is too ill to attend school please contact us by phone 01202 822652 before 9.30am. Please do this for each day your child is away (unless you have informed us that s/he has been signed off by the doctor for an extended period of time).

What is the School Doing to Support Attendance?

At Verwood CE First school all of our staff understand how important attendance is. Teachers emphasise this in class and during assemblies and PSHE lessons.

We monitor the attendance of individuals closely. Mr Parsons will arrange a meeting with parents whose children's attendance is low to provide support and discuss any concerns or issues. Multi agency involvement will take place for children and families where attendance is very poor.



Holidays During Term Time

There are 190 school days in a year and therefore 175 of holiday/weekends per year. Taking your son/daughter out of school for two weeks (10 school days) will reduce his/her attendance to 94% before any account is taken of days off for illness etc. We understand that the cost for holidays are more in school holiday time but this must be considered alongside the impact on self confidence and happiness and progress of your child.



Research suggests that students who are taken out of school for holidays may never catch up on learning missed.

Verwood CE First School



Attendance at School

Guidelines for Parents

