



Bradford
Christian
School



School Attendance Matters A Parent's Guide





Why attendance at school is so important -

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To Learn.
- To develop relationaly.
- To experience new things in life.
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- To achieve.
- To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.

→ 77% of students who gained 5 A*-C passes had a school attendance of 95% or better. This percentage dropped to 62% for the students whose attendance was 85%-95%

**Miss School -
Miss Out!!!**



Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, and to underachieve in examinations.



What the law says -

Under Article 45 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (“the 1986 Order”), it is the duty of parents to ensure their child receives efficient, full time education suitable to their age, aptitude, ability and to any special educational needs they may have. Such education may be provided by regular attendance at school or otherwise, for example home education. Part 3 of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order states that it is the duty of a parent of a registered pupil of a school to secure their regular attendance at school. This applies to all children of compulsory school age who are on the roll of a school.

As a parent you are legally responsible for making this happen. Under Part 3 of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order, if a child or young person who is registered at a school does not attend regularly, a parent can receive a fine not exceeding £1,000 in court (for each child). An Education Supervision Order (ESO) could also be made by a court under Article 55 Key Point of the Children (NI) Order 1995.

- The Headteacher will not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.



Education is not an option - it's compulsory..



Family Holidays -

You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child or young person who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work. In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time. Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised key point absence.

- At Bradford Christian School you must complete a leave of absence request, available at the school office, and return it to the school office for a decision **before** you book a family holiday or leave of absence abroad.
- Leave of absence will not normally be granted in September to ensure pupils have a settled start to the year, or in May and June when all students have their annual assessments.



Avoid taking family holidays during the school term.



How parents can help -

- Prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks)
- Attend parent evenings and school events.



How parents can help -

- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or
- challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

Having set a high standard of expectation that your child will be at school as much as possible, we also know that there are exceptional circumstances where absence is unavoidable and necessary. Again, please talk to us about such circumstances.



Key
Point

Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.



Every school day matters -

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

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 days missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 Week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable



Good Common

Sense -

Use good common sense when deciding whether your child needs to stay at home. Work on the basis that sick children belong at home and well children belong in school. Please remember that early morning aches and pains often pass, so don't keep your child at home 'just in case' when they could be learning in class. If you are not sure, check the guidance in this leaflet or for further advice contact your doctor or the school nurse.

Too Poorly To Attend? -

In 2010 over a quarter of a million school days were lost in Bradford Primary Schools due to authorised absence. The main reason children are absent from school is due to illness. Keeping healthy so your child is able to attend school more regularly is an important part of your child's life. All children should be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being. Parents can also help by ensuring their children stay healthy by taking exercise, getting enough sleep and eating a healthy diet.





Is my child well enough to go to school? -



Vomiting and Diarrhoea

If vomiting occurs, keep your child at home for 48 hours *after* being sick. A child with diarrhoea should also be kept at home. Consult your doctor if your child does not improve as you expect.

Sore throat

If your child complains of a slight sore throat and has no other symptoms, they are fit to go to school. If a sore throat occurs with a raised temperature, they need to stay at home.



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