



# Every school day counts

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
97% Attendance	5 days of Absence 1 week of learning missed	Good
95% Attendance	9 days of Absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 days of Absence 3 week and 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 days of Absence 5 week and 3 days of learning missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 days of Absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week, or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



**Angmering Locality Schools**

## **What the law says**

Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996, it is the duty of parents who have a child of compulsory school age to ensure their child receives efficient full-time education suitable to their age. This education can be provided by regular attendance at school or otherwise – for example, home education.

Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that if a child registered at a school fails to attend regularly, then his or her parent is guilty of an offence. This applies to all parents of a child, including any step-parent or any other adult with caring responsibilities for the child.

Any parent responsible for a child who fails to attend regularly may face court action, or receive a fixed-penalty notice fine of up to £120 per parent per child. For a family of 4, this could lead to fines totalling nearly £500 for unauthorised absence of both children.



**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 school year there are only 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 unauthorised absence.



**Avoid taking family holidays during the school term**



# Why attendance at school is so important

If a child of school age is registered at a school, it is essential that they attend 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. Research by the department of education shows that for every day of schooling missed, there is an impact on children's success at Year 6 and Year 11.



**Children with full attendance are twice as likely to get 5 good GCSEs as those with 90% attendance<sup>1</sup>**

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

- ☒ To learn
- ☒ To have fun
- ☒ To build friendships
- ☒ To experience new things in life
- ☒ To gain qualifications
- ☒ To develop new skills
- ☒ To build confidence and self-esteem



## Punctuality matters

The school day is planned so that learning begins as soon as children enter the classroom each morning. Each time your child is late, they will have missed some of that learning. In fact, being just 5 minutes late each day equates to losing a whole day of learning each term. Being 10 minutes late each day means your child missing out on more than week's learning each year.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/absence-and-attainment-at-key-stages-2-and-4-2013-to-2014>

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# How parents can help

- ✓ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is 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 – aim for just before.
- ✓ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible
- ✓ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness
- ✓ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect, they may be putting themselves at risk.
- ✓ Take family holidays outside term time
- ✓ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work, including homework
- ✓ Attend parents evenings and school events
- ✓ 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.



**Don't be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.**



# How school can help

All the schools in the Angmering locality work together on attendance and take the same approach to absence. In every school, there is someone you can talk to for help with your child's attendance to ensure they get the most out of their schooling, every day.



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