



Fairfields
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Attendance News – Spring Term 1

Start and end of school day

A polite reminder that the gates and classroom doors open at **8.30 am** and registration is taken at **8.45 am**.

The gates close at **8.40 am**. Registers are taken in classes at **8.45** and close at **9.00 am** in the office. If you are later than **8.45 am** you will need to bring your child into school via the main school office where you will be required to sign your child in and they will be marked as late. If your child arrives after **9 am** they will be marked as late and this lateness will be marked as unauthorised absence.

Picking your child up on time at the end of the day is just as important as getting to school on time. The school day finishes at **3.30 pm** and the gates are opened at **3.30 pm**. If on the occasion you may be late or someone else is collecting your child on your behalf, please let the school office know before **3.15 pm** if possible.

January 2023

Nursery class absences

Although the children in the Nursery Class are below statutory school age, parents/carers are required to contact the school if their child is absent through illness. Parents/carers are also required to fill in a leave of absence form if they are taking their child on holiday.

Appointments

Try to arrange appointments during school holidays, at weekends or after school hours. Naturally, there will be times when this is not possible. Please bring the appointment letter or card into school to ensure that the correct absent code is recorded for your child.

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

Nationally primary pupil attendance is around **96%**. This means that a child needs to attend school for at least 177 out of 190 days (no more than 7 days absence across the whole year) to meet national expectations.

Attendance during the school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approx this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

Every school day counts

Illness

We obviously recognise that there are times when children fall ill and of course, we want them to remain at home when this is the case so they do not infect other children.

Just to remind you, if your child has suffered from sickness and/or diarrhoea they must stay off school for **48 hours** after the last bout. However, if your child has a minor complaint such as headache, hay fever, runny nose, mild sore throat then they can attend school. School will contact you to collect your child if they are too ill to be in school.

In response to the current high levels of flu, covid and Strep A, the latest advice from the UK Health Security Agency is as follows:

In order to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Your responsibilities as a parent

Children must receive a full time education between the school term after their fifth birthday and the last Friday in June in the school year they turn 16 (Y11). If your child fails to attend school regularly you may be guilty of a criminal offence and this could result in a prosecution.

Persistent absence

Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more of absence a year or 100+ lessons missed. If a child's attendance drops below 90% this could lead to them becoming a safeguarding concern. This could also result in the authority taking legal action against parents, resulting in a fine or court appearance.

Social interaction plays an important role in learning. Interacting with other people has proven to be quite effective in assisting the learner to organize their thoughts, reflect on their understanding, and find gaps in their reasoning.

Safeguarding

As part of our safeguarding procedures, if school is not contacted when your child is absent, a call home will be made to ensure all children are accounted for. If school cannot make contact with any people on the contact list by 11 'o clock, a home visit will be made. If we are concerned about a child's safety, a referral will be made to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or the police may be called. Parents/Carers must call every day to report an absence, unless it is a long term illness and it has been agreed with the school that daily calls are not necessary.

The guidance we use for marking absences is from the DFE. If you require a paper copy of codes, please contact the school office or you can visit:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073591/School_attendance_guidance_May-2022.pdf

Fixed Penalty Fines Unauthorised leave for 10 sessions (5 school days) or more will qualify for a fine. No advanced warning will be issued from the Local Authority as school has informed all parents that leave in term time will not be authorised.

Don't be afraid to contact school about your child's attendance or other issues. Tell school about anything that may be happening at home which could affect your child's attendance. Good communication between you and the school is good for your child's education.