

Did you know...

Everyday in the UK 50,000 children miss school without a valid reason.

In cases where pupils have only achieved 80% attendance in a school year, they have missed 1 day of school per week. By the end of the child's school career they will have missed 1 full year of secondary education!

Poor attendance affects exam results by up to one grade.

Anti social behaviour and truancy have been linked. The 2004 youth crime survey showed that 45% of young people who have committed an offence say they have played truant from school.

Only the Head Teacher can authorise a child's absence from school. This is only done if the school are satisfied that the reason given is genuine and warrants absence from school.

For further information please contact your child's school. Alternatively, you can contact the Attendance Officer for your child's school on the number below.

Attendance Service

Green Gates
Melton Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS19 0JD

Tel: (01642) 528732

Fax: (01642) 585274

Julie Armstrong - Attendance
Service Manager

Anne-Marie Pearson - Assistant
Manager



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Attendance at School Matters

Does your child have an attendance problem?

This leaflet helps explain the facts
and the support available

The Law

The Education Act 1996, Section 444 states that if a child of compulsory school age (5-16) who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend school regularly, the parents/carers are guilty of an offence.

However - a child shall not be classed as failing to attend school for the following reasons:

- If the school authorises a family holiday,
- If your child is genuinely ill,
- To attend a day set aside for religious observance,
- Due to any other unavoidable reason that is sanctioned by school.

If found guilty of this offence parents are liable to a fine not exceeding £2500 and/or imprisonment for up to 3 months.

The Effects

Regular school attendance is essential for your child to make the most of their education. Low attendance can lead to low attainment and has even been linked to anti social behaviour.

Missing school can mean missing out on important exams and can even mean dropping one grade in GCSE's and SAT's.

If your child is regularly absent the school may choose to involve the Attendance Officer. The Attendance Officer will investigate reasons for absence and will work with the family and pupil to help improve attendance at school.

If your child's attendance does not improve after all intervention strategies have been tried parents may be prosecuted for the non-attendance at school of their child.

Things to Remember...

- If your child is absent as a result of illness or for any other unavoidable circumstance, contact the school your child attends and inform them on the first day of absence.
- When your child returns to school, write a letter detailing the exact reason for absence and hand it into school as this will enable the school to mark registers accurately.
- Keep school informed and up to date of any issues outside school that may affect your child's school attendance. The earlier the intervention can be put in place the better.
- If your child is experiencing problems with attending school or is refusing to attend school there is help available, just contact your school and/or the Attendance Service as support is available to help overcome any difficulties.
- Everyday your child is absent impacts on their future opportunities.