



Attendance Matters

Why is school attendance important?

There are many reasons why regular school attendance is important for young people.

- ✓ Interacting and socialising with other young people
- ✓ Learning to interact with adults beyond our own family
- ✓ Access to the full entitlement to a broad curriculum
- ✓ Opportunities to engage in exciting extra-curricular activities, including sport, the arts and careers' education
- ✓ Access to pastoral and academic support
- ✓ Students who attend regularly are likely to be and feel more successful in school

What is the impact of low attendance?

- Attendance below 90% means that a young person is missing a day of learning every fortnight.
- The table below shows the impact of this in days lost over time.
- 90% attendance across a child's time at school equates to a whole school year being missed.

	Attendance %	Sessions Missed	Days Missed	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100% - 99%	0 - 4	0 - 2	0 - 10
Good	98% - 96%	8 - 15	4 - 7.5	20 - 37.5
Requires Improvement	95% - 91%	19 - 34	9.5 - 17	47.5 - 85
Persistently Absent	90% - 86%	38 - 54	19 - 27	95 - 135
Critical	85% - 50%	57 - 190	28.5 - 95	142 - 475
Severe	Below 50%			

- Regular absences can impact on a young person's sense of belonging and fitting in with other children
- Missing learning has an impact on self-esteem when a child struggles to catch up
- Missing enrichment days and events means that a child can miss opportunities beyond the classroom that are crucial for forming positive memories of school with friends
- The impact on exam grades and outcomes is well-researched and evidence shows that 90% of young people with attendance below 85% do not achieve five or more good grades at GCSE and around a third achieve no GCSEs at all.
- Future employers want to employ people who are reliable and who have good attendance

Supporting your child's school attendance

Good school attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents/carers set the standards and expectations for them. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment.

Be organised, have a plan, be consistent and involve your child. It's important to:

- ✓ Create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually, and they are properly equipped.
- ✓ Talk to them about the things they have been learning. A short chat may produce a better result than a long list of questions.
- ✓ Read all school communications.
- ✓ Attend school progress evenings and functions.
- ✓ Check your child understands the homework and that it has been completed. Support them in completing homework by creating a calm space for them to work in.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take part in clubs and enrichment opportunities so that they widen their friendship group.
- ✓ Avoid absence from school wherever possible. Avoid GP and dental appointments during school hours where possible. Absence means your child will miss out on academic studies and begin to feel that education is not a priority. This can have a negative lifelong effect.
- ✓ Help your child understand that it is normal to feel worried at times and that you and school staff are there to support them.
- ✓ There tends to be good reasons why children become reluctant to attend school. Take the time to listen to your child, share any concerns you or your child may have with the appropriate member of school staff and seek support at the very earliest opportunity

Other support

There are online support materials available that you may find helpful if you are concerned about your child's attendance:

[BBC Bitesize](#) – Support around school related anxiety

[Young Minds](#) – Young Minds Mental Health Charity for Children and Young People

[The Wellness Society](#) – An organisation that provides mental wellbeing tools

Headspace and Calm are both Apps that support mindfulness and relaxation

[Anna Freud](#) – A world-leading mental health charity for children and families

If you have an attendance concern, please contact Mr Marriott (Attendance Lead Teacher) through the School Office. The team at Golden Valley is here to help and our priority is to support your child in being in school, being happy, safe and successful.