



## Did you know

If your child misses half a day per week in 1 school year, they will miss 1 month of learning. If they miss 1 day per week in one school year, they will miss 2 months of learning. 90% attendance is one day off every 2 weeks!

80% attendance over 5 years is a full year with **NO LEARNING!**

Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = 1 GCSE grade drop in achievement. That could be the difference between a C and a D in Maths or English. The Education Welfare Service support good school attendance.

If your child's absence is causing concern, you will be required to attend a meeting. This will be supportive, in order to avoid legal sanctions.



Sandymoor School 'Excellence in all we do'



### Family Holidays are no more!

It may surprise you to learn that parents/carers have no legal right to take children out of school for a family holiday

From the 1st September 2013, legislation changed and Headteachers can no longer authorise absence for holidays in term time.

Headteachers can only authorise leave of absence in exceptional circumstances.

An application for Leave of Absence form will need to be completed, attaching evidence of exceptional circumstances and returned to school.

The Headteacher can decide what an exceptional circumstance is and how many days will be allowed.

Unauthorised holidays in term time may trigger a penalty notice being issued.

See our attendance policy and/or DfE website for further information.

Where children of compulsory school age (5-16) are registered at school, the law says that they should attend regularly (Section 444 of the Education Act 1996). That is unless a child is engaged in an approved educational activity away from the school site or is absent with the school's authority.



Our school is at the heart of our community. Regular attendance helps students to achieve their potential. Irregular attendance causes children to fall behind and be at a disadvantage. It can also place children at risk.



If your child is absent, you must ring school before 9 am on each day of absence on 01928 571217 detailing the reason for absence. Please also provide a note giving dates and reasons for the absence on your child's return to school.

**The Law:** You are legally responsible for

- Ensuring your child receives full time education.
- Ensuring that your child attends school regularly.

You can meet your legal responsibilities, and give your child a helping hand, by:

- ⇒ Ensuring that your child attends school every day.
- ⇒ Ensuring your child is punctual by leaving home in time to get to school by 8.40 am, before the gates close.
- ⇒ Supporting and encouraging your child in school by attending parents' evenings and other events.
- ⇒ Making appointments for your child to visit the doctor (except in urgent cases), dentist or optician outside of school hours.
- ⇒ Informing school on the first day of absences giving reason for absence.
- ⇒ Providing a note for the school when your child returns after an illness and any medical evidence

**Don't be late....**School starts at 8.45 am. A prompt arrival at school will enable your child to start the day in a relaxed and enjoyable manner.

The link between attendance and success in school is clear: the more a pupil is in school the greater their opportunity to fulfil their potential.

**We are always happy to support students and families with any issues relating to attendance and punctuality.**

Please let us know if your child is unhappy at school and we will endeavour to change things for the better where we can.

Likewise we will contact you if we have any concerns regarding your child.

**Attendance Manager is Mrs Caudwell**

**Contact details 01928 571 217**

**You may also wish to contact your child's Head of Year**

Head of Year 7—Mr Miller

Head of Year 8—Mrs Fairhead

Head of Year 9—Mrs Kinsella

Head of Year 10—Mrs Kinsella

Head of Year 11— Mrs Johnson

If your child has an unavoidable medical appointment, please provide a copy of the appointment card / letter prior to the appointment date. We would expect your child to attend school before and after appointments, except in exceptional circumstances.

Keep us informed of any changes of details



Recipe for success:-

1. Only stay at home if you are genuinely ill
2. Avoid taking holidays in school time
3. Get organised the night before and get enough sleep
4. Talk to your parents about school and how you feel about it
5. Talk to someone if something is bothering you

**\*\*you are not alone\*\***

We are here to help you!

