



**BEDLINGTON**  
Academy

# **ATTENDANCE POLICY 18/19**

Essential information for parents

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Our Education Welfare Officer is Dawn Temperton

*If you need this document in a different format, please get in touch.*

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Attending school is very important.** Your child must attend school every day. Children who are regularly absent from school miss out on opportunities which can affect their life-long chances.

## LATENESS

School starts at **8.50am**. Your child will receive a late mark if they arrive after this time. The register closes at 9am. If your child arrives after this time, they will receive an unauthorised absence mark.

## ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school, you must:

- Contact school on the first morning of absence.
- Contact school every day your child is absent.

Failure to do these things may result in your child's absences being unauthorised.

*Unauthorised absences are recorded on the register when there is no valid reason given for absences, a holiday not approved by the school, lateness after the register closes or illness without medical evidence.*

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If possible, any appointment should be made out of school time. If this is not possible, your child should miss the minimum amount of school time necessary. If your child is well enough to go back to school following the appointment they should do so.

## MEDICAL EVIDENCE

If you are asked for medical evidence you will need to provide copies of G.P appointment cards or letters, medication details or other relevant information.

## HOLIDAYS / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Please request an application form from school for any holidays or leave of absence requests. Unauthorised leave may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine).

## PERSISTENT ABSENCE

If your child's attendance falls to 90% or below, this is considered, by Government to be persistent absence. Where attendance falls below 90% and there are unauthorised absences, this may result in a referral to the Local Authority for enforcement Action.

## THE LAW

You need to make sure your child attends school regularly and on time. You will be breaking the law if you do not do this and there are no good reasons for your child missing school.

## HELP AND SUPPORT

If you need help with attendance you must talk to the school about it as soon as possible. Sometimes, school may need to involve other services to help. The school and Local Authority want to help you if you have a problem. If attendance does not get better or you do not accept help and support offered, the Council may have to begin enforcement action.

**PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO CONTACT US  
IMMEDIATELY IF  
YOUR ADDRESS OR  
CONTACT DETAILS  
CHANGE!**

