

What Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools are doing to support attendance

All members of staff in our schools understand how important attendance is and encourage a positive ethos regarding attendance for all pupils.

Attendance is monitored regularly with any unexplained absence being investigated by contact with home to ascertain the reason for absence. If contact cannot be made the absence may be recorded as UNAUTHORISED.

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of any absence by 9.30am on the first day.

Your school contact for attendance matters is:

Name:
Tel. No:
Email:

Pupils whose attendance is causing concern may be referred to the school's Welfare Officer.

Our school's Welfare Officer is:

Name:
Tel. No:
Email:

Penalty Warning Notices

In school, one day = 2 sessions. Pupils who have 10 unauthorised sessions of absence (5 days) within 12 weeks of school may be issued a Penalty Notice or a Penalty Fine. The Notice means that attendance is monitored especially carefully and any further absence could then result in a Penalty Fine of £60 per child, per parent being imposed.

A parent who takes their child out of school during term time after the Head teacher has refused to authorise term time leave could also receive a Penalty Notice or a Penalty Fine.

Attendance Policy and Core Principles

Each school has its own attendance policy which provides details of how all the attendance procedures are managed.

All schools in The Crewkerne and Ilminster Partnership also operate under the following jointly agreed core principles towards attendance:

- Attendance is a crucial part of a young person attaining their potential within education and is a high priority in every school.
- Regular attendance is classed as at least 95% or higher in all of our schools (see individual attendance policies).
- We endeavour to collaborate to provide our families within Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools Partnership as streamlined and coordinated procedure as possible across all our schools.
- Where families attend more than one of our schools attendance decisions affecting all children will be consulted upon between the schools however this does not guarantee the same decision will be reached by all schools involved.
- All schools work closely with the County Welfare Officer for our schools and their advice informs our attendance decisions.

As schools we welcome discussions with families about any attendance matter but please be aware as schools, we have to follow National and County guidance in our procedures and decisions.



ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS A PRIORITY

Guidance for Parents and Students



The Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools Partnership is a Community Learning Partnership comprising 12 schools across Crewkerne and Ilminster. We believe that by working together we are better able to raise aspirations and achievement for all our learners.

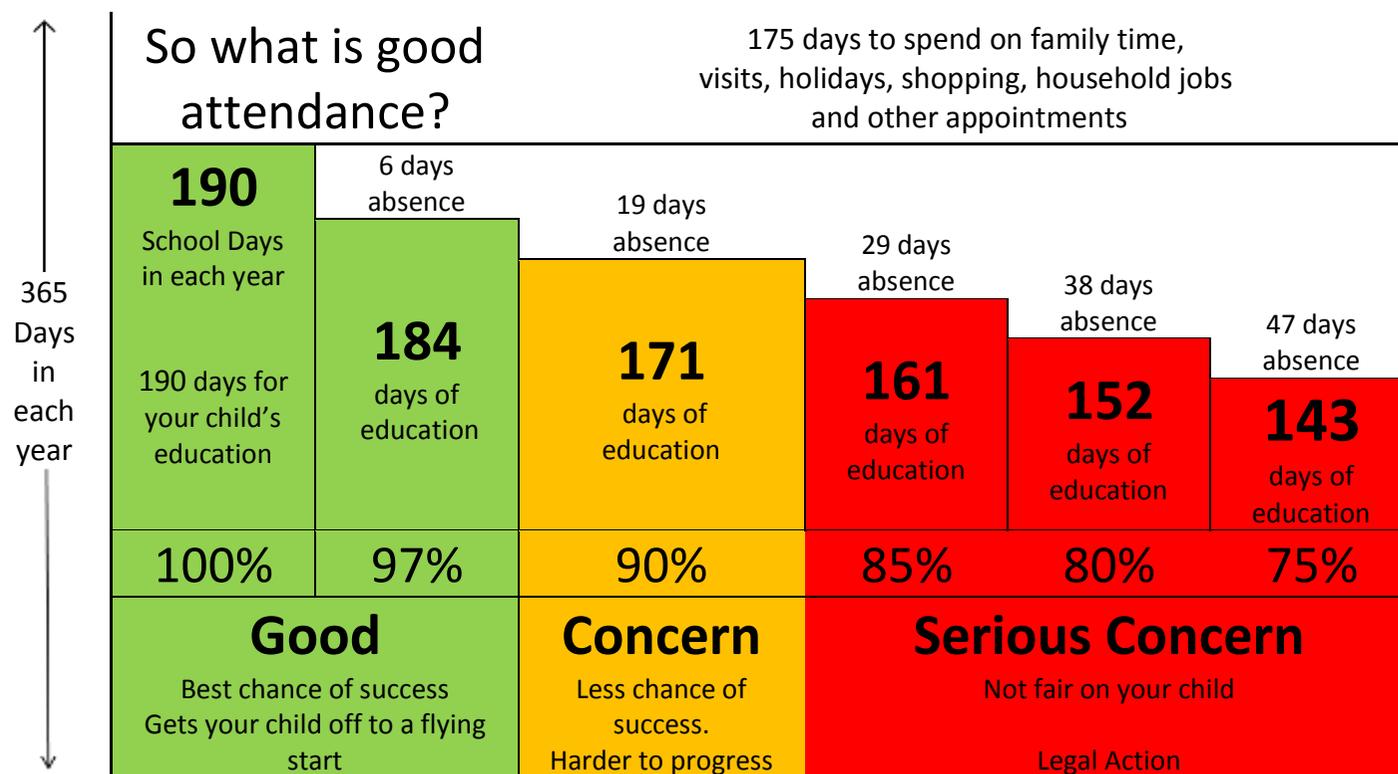
Why does attendance matter?

Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance and achievement in school. Poor attendance can have a direct effect on a pupil's attainment.

For example, 90% attendance might sound quite good but what this means in reality is :-

- On average half a day's school missed every week
- This would also mean in one year four whole weeks of school would be missed

Pupils whose attendance is good are more likely to feel happy within their peer group socially, feel better able to 'keep up' academically and more able to cope with the many demands of a busy school life. Good attendance habits and punctuality in school are often carried into later life.



Major issues affecting school attendance

Term Time Leave

Pupils who are taken out of school during term time may find it hard to catch up and this can have a detrimental effect on their learning.

The law states that parents do not have the right to take their children out of school for holidays during term time.

Any request for Term Time Leave must be made in writing to the Head teacher in advance. Requests will not usually be granted. The Head teacher will only authorise term time leave in EXCEPTIONAL circumstances according to the DfE guidelines. It is not the school's responsibility to issue work during term time leave as your child should be attending school.

Any unauthorised absence, including term time leave not agreed with the school, could result in a Penalty Notice being issued to each parent for each child affected.

Medical

We would not expect any parent to send their child to school if they were genuinely unwell. However, if your child is going to be absent for 5 consecutive days we may request medical evidence to support the absence.

If your child is feeling 'under the weather' it is usually best to bring them to school. We will contact you if a child becomes too unwell to remain in school.

For safeguarding purposes we expect the parents/guardians to contact the school by 9:30am on the first day of absence