

Information for Parents/Carers

Attendance and Punctuality

There is a clear link between attendance and attainment. It seems very obvious that students who are good attenders succeed far better than those whose attendance is poor. Every day your child is absent impacts upon their education and opportunities in adult life. At Northfield School we continue to strive to improve attendance and punctuality.

Raise Your Child's Attendance

Raise Their Chances



What does “Good Attendance” mean?

Do you know what your child's attendance is?



This is Emily. She is in Year 7 and she has 90% attendance.



Is that good?

What does it mean?

Emily thinks this is pretty good and so do her parents. *Are they correct?*

FACT

*90% attendance = ½ day
missed every week!*

How would your boss feel about you being off that much?

FACT

*If Emily's attendance stayed at
90% for the whole year, she
would miss out on 4 full weeks
of learning!*

*Over 5 years at Northfield
School, she would miss:*

half a school year!

What impact might this have on Emily's life?

FACT

*Research shows that a 10%
drop in attendance (20 days
absence in a school year) is
the equivalent to a drop in one
grade at GCSE!*

The greater the attendance, the greater the achievement!



The Link between Attendance and Attainment

Attendance %	Number of days absent in one year	Chances of achieving 5 GCSE's grades 4-9
100%	0	90%+
95%	10	82%
92.5%	15	72%
90%	20	45%
85%	30	25%
80%	40	5%

What could Emily's potential earnings look like?



Money can't buy you happiness. However, research has shown that qualifications can have an impact on your hourly rate of pay:

	£
With a degree	16.10
Higher Education	12.60
A Levels	10.00
GCSE grades 4-9	8.68
Other qualification	8.07
No qualification	6.93

What do you want for your child?

So 90% attendance is not as good as it first seemed!



The Importance of Punctuality

Arriving on time to registration is crucial:

“It’s not like in my day when you just had to turn up, shout ‘HERE’ when your name was called and then chat to your friends. Nowadays, tutor-time is more like a mini-lesson. It’s a very valuable time of the school day”

Arriving on time to lessons is also crucial:

This is Tom



Tom wastes 6 minutes of every lesson every day

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If there are 5 lessons each day and each lesson lasts one hour, this means that every day he is missing out on 10% of his learning

↓
If there are 10 sessions a week, that means he misses out on one full session a week

↓
If there are 10 weeks in a term, he misses out on 1 whole week per term

↓
If there are 3 terms each year he misses out on 3 weeks a year which is equivalent to having 90% attendance

↓
In 5 years at Northfield school, Tom would miss:

Half a school year!



Late to school

=



Late to lessons

=



Late to work

Stop this habit now!

What can I do as a parent to increase my child's attendance?



Ways for Parents to Encourage Attendance

- Regularly check your child's attendance. Attendance data is on school reports and it can now be accessed via the school website. You can also email or phone us at any time during the school year.
- Speak regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. If there are any problems which might affect attendance, speak to us about it.
- Only grant days at home for **genuine** illness. You will know when they are not well enough to attend!
- Don't take holidays in term time.
- Keep us informed. Always phone school by 9am to tell school why your child is absent and send written confirmation when they return.
- Avoid medical appointments during the school day. If this is not possible, ensure your child returns to school as soon as their appointment is finished so that they do not miss lessons unnecessarily. In the majority of cases medical appointments do not require a full session of absence.
- Know the routines of the school day and avoid issues. For example, have they got their PE kit ready? Do they have a clean uniform? Have they done their homework (you can now see what homework has been set for them via the school website)? Encourage them to pack their school bags the night before.
- Make sure they eat breakfast and have money for lunch.
- Be watchful and supportive in the run up to tests and be aware of coursework deadlines.
- Look for patterns. Are there any specific days when your child feels ill? Are they avoiding a certain lesson?
- Encourage them to catch up on missed work. If they have been working on a topic they may find the class has moved on by the time they return. This can cause anxiety and it can also affect self-confidence.
- After a period of absence students sometimes feel left out of friendship groups. Talk to your child and if there are any problems, let us know.
- Praise and reward good attendance and punctuality at home. Students with good attendance receive rewards in school and are allowed to take part in school trips.
- Work in partnership with school, instilling in your child respect for school's policies and procedures.

There is always a reason for poor attendance. Talk to your child about any issues they might have and inform school.

KEY MESSAGE:

- **Your child only has one chance at school**
- **Every day counts. Every lesson counts**
- **Missing odd days becomes a habit**
- **Don't let your child miss out**
- **Good attendance and punctuality = higher grades**
- **Good attendance and punctuality = better chances in life**



FACT

If a school can improve attendance by 1% they will see a 5.6% improvement in attainment (DFES)

Attend and Achieve

Please help us and your child by ensuring their attendance remains above 95%. Anything below 95% is unacceptable in Northfield School.

Help your child to achieve their full potential. We want them to be happy and feel safe in school.



Thank you for your continued support!