

**ATTENDANCE**

**Why is attendance important?**

School ensures that children have the best start in life and that they are equipped for succeeding both academically and socially so that they can achieve in their exams and manage relationships. Children who miss school are more likely to become victims or perpetrators of crime. The more school children miss the harder it is to catch up. Statistics show that 90% of persistent absentees (those with attendance below 90%) fail to achieve 5 or more good GCSE grades or equivalent. Poor examination results limit young people's options. Good school outcomes are the passport into higher education and better jobs.

**What can parents do to ensure good attendance at school**

\*Create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually and ensure they are properly equipped with the right uniform, PE kit, school bag, pencil case, books etc.

\*Read all school communications

\*Attend parents' evenings

\*Encourage and show interest; discuss their day with them.

\*Check your child understands their homework and that it has been completed.

\*Contact the school if your child is worried about something, causing reluctance to go to school.

\*Set realistic boundaries and sanctions

\*Let the school know the reason(s) for any absence and a likely return date, on the first day of the absence and update the school daily.

\*Make medical/dental appointments out of school time, whenever possible.

\*Do not take holidays during term time.

**Taking holidays in term time**

From 1 September 2013, a change to government legislation means that schools are not allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. These circumstances will be determined by your child's Headteacher, including the number of school days your child can be away from school if leave is granted. You must allow enough time for the Headteacher to consider your request before leave is taken. It is possible that the Headteacher may refuse permission. Parents can be given a penalty notice or prosecuted for periods of unauthorised holidays.

**Being late for school**

It is important your child arrives to school on time. If they are late and miss the register, it may be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

**A summary of the school’s policy regarding absences from school that are not authorised.**

Any absence that is not authorised by the school will be recorded as such and may make you liable for prosecution or fine under the Education Act (1996).

Here at St Wenn School, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to

authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical

appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed on

exceptional circumstances.

However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school

agrees this is appropriate under ‘exceptional circumstances’. Any request for leave should be made in

writing to the Head Teacher using the school’s request form.

If you decide to still take your child out of school, without permission, you will be committing an offence

under the Education Act 1996. We may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who may decide to take

legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued under Section 444A and 444B of the Education

Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days.

Failure to pay the penalty notice will result in Court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the

school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates Court, leading to fines up to £2,500 and / or

custodial sentences.

You are welcome to contact the school to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you

feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. St Wenn

School is committed to maximising the education of all its pupils and aims to work with parents to

ensure this can be achieved.