



ATTENDANCE News Letter

Spring Term 22/23 First Edition

Why is it important for children not to miss school?



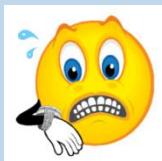
All parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life.

They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly. If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with schoolwork. In a busy school day, it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.



Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life. Children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of securing a job when they are adults. Being on time is also vital.



Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class. Some parents may be finding it difficult to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If this is the case please speak to Mrs Dedman as soon as possible so that the situation can be addressed.

What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

In primary schools less than 65% of children achieve good results in English and Maths with an average of 15 days absence a year compared to almost 90% where the average is less than 8 days.

Children only attend school 190 Days a year, so being at school is important. Every Day Counts.

Research has also shown that children who are not in school can become vulnerable. For example, children who play truant are more likely to be drawn into crime than those who do not.





What does the law say?



By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must receive a suitable, full time education. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure this happens, either by registering your child at a school or by making other arrangements which provide a suitable full-time education.

Once your child is registered at a school you are responsible for making sure he or she attends regularly.

If your child fails to attend regularly – even if they miss school without you knowing – the Local Authority (LA) may take legal action against you.

The LA is responsible for making sure that parents fulfil their responsibilities.

If you think you might need to take your child out of school, discuss the reasons with the school as soon as possible.

Reasons such as family bereavement or taking part in an agreed religious observance would be acceptable for short absences.

Unacceptable reasons for missing school include:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Forgetting school term dates | Over Sleeping | Day Trips |
| Family Outings | Problems with uniform | Birthdays |
| Holidays | Minor ailments | |

What happens if your child does not attend school regularly?



Your child's school is responsible by law for reporting poor attendance to the LA.

As a parent, you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly.

You run the risk of legal/ Court proceedings against you. This could result in a financial penalty notice, a community order – supervised by the probation service or a custodial sentence. As a result it could lead to a criminal record for your child's non school attendance.



What about authorised absence?

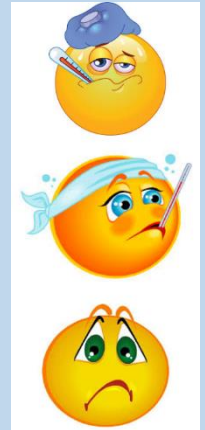
There may be times when your child may miss school because they are ill. This is to be expected and you should notify the school by email or phone.

Children may also have to attend a medical or dental appointment in school time. However, you should try to make routine appointments such as dental check-ups during the school holiday or after school hours.

Any absence **must** be requested as far in advance as possible.

What can you do to help?

- If you suspect that your child may be missing school or is unhappy at school you should contact the school as soon as possible so that you can work with them to resolve any difficulties.
- Be on alert for any reasons for non-attendance, such as bullying or problems with schoolwork and discuss these with the school.
- If your child is ill or absent for any other reasons, contact the school on the first day of absence.
- Follow the schools' procedures for notifying absence, and always let the school know of any days that your child is unable to attend.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time.
- Take an interest in your child's education. Ask them about their day and praise and encourage their achievements at school.



Attendance Policy

The school's full attendance policy can be viewed by request at the school Office or is in the policy section on the school website [Attendance-Policy-23-24.pdf \(st-josephs.leicester.sch.uk\)](https://st-josephs.leicester.sch.uk/Attendance-Policy-23-24.pdf)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

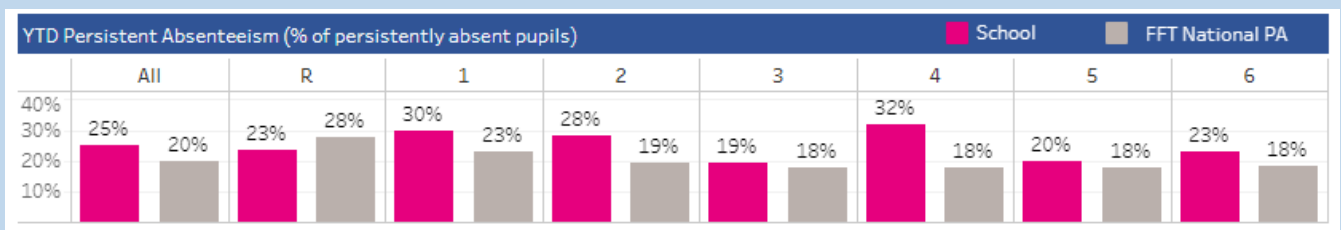


Persistent absence

At present **25.4% of children at St Josephs** are persistently absent.

A **Persistent Absentee** is defined as a student who has 10% or more absence.

The **National average** for Persistent absence is **21%** making our school below the National Average.



The above table shows Our schools persistent absence to date in all year groups.

Please work with us as we try to reduce persistent absence in our school.

Best Wishes

Mrs Dedman