

ATTENDANCE WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Madeley Attendance Newsletter

Key Data

Year 7: 95.9%

Year 8: 95.6%

Year 9: 93.9%

Year 10: 93%

Year 11: 93.2%

Whole school lates:
1.8%

Persistently absent:
14%

Introduction

Welcome to our next edition of Madeley School's attendance newsletter. In this edition we wanted to address some of the key questions parents and carers raise in relation to attendance, and also some of the key attendance data for our school.



All parents can access their child's attendance on Arbor.

It's never too late to improve attendance!

Key information to help you

- School **will not** be able to authorise requests for family holidays during term time. This is a directive of Staffordshire County Council and the DFE. If the absence is five or more days, school has to inform Staffordshire County Council who may issue you with a fine. This also includes 10 unauthorised sessions of absence (2 sessions count as one day - am and pm) over a 10 week period.

Holidays in term time

A holiday is generally not considered an exceptional circumstance. You cannot usually take your child away during term time.

! You can be fined or face legal action for taking your child on holiday during term time.
- Schools **must** send letters to parents or carers when their child's attendance drops to a certain percentage, for example, stage one attendance letters are sent when your child's attendance drops to 95%, stage two letters at 92%. There are only exceptional circumstances when this might not happen, for example, the child is in hospital.
- Our **Education Welfare Officer** is employed through **VIP Education**. They support the school and the families of children who are persistently absent (below 90%). They may conduct attendance support clinics, undertake home visits or complete safe and well checks when a child is not in school. Only the minimum amount of data is shared with this service, and this is done so securely in accordance with UK GDPR. Please use the link if you would like any further information or view their policies: <https://vipeducation.co.uk>
- The school day starts each morning at **8.35am**, this is when registration opens and closes at 9am. Children arriving after this time will be unauthorised, unless exceptional circumstances. We have an increasing number of students arriving to school late each day. As part of supporting parents and carers getting their child into school on time, persistent lateness will result in after school detentions for each day the student is late. This will be discussed with parents and carers in a meeting prior to this starting.
- Useful information:** please report absences before 8.30am, medical appointments must be accompanied with evidence of the appointment (screenshot or photo) and any appointment will only be authorised for the appointment duration and travel times, not the whole day.

Working together as a team to support attendance.

Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, it is essential we work in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers collaboratively to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place.

Phone calls, letters, meetings and home visits held with parents and carers are opportunities to identify barriers to attending school and the support needed, to enable a child to access their education and develop positive relationship and social interactions with their peers and other adults.

Please contact school at any time if you need support or advice regarding your child's attendance.