

## Attend today Achieve Tomorrow

There is a proven link between attendance and attainment – how well your child will achieve in school can depend on how much time they are absent.

Government Attendance Target is over 95%. If your child attends for at least 95% of one school year they will have had less than 10 days absence.

### Attendance over One School Year

If your child has had:

98% attendance = less than 4 days absent from school

95% attendance = less than 10 days absent from school

90% attendance = 4 weeks absent from school

85% attendance = 5 ½ weeks absent from school

80% attendance = 7 ½ weeks absent from school

### Attendance over 5 years (Years 7-11)

85-90% attendance = having about half a year off school

80% attendance = 38 weeks off school = one whole school year missed

If your child's absence is causing concern, you will be required to attend a meeting with the Attendance Officer and the Education Welfare Officer. This will be supportive, in order to avoid legal sanctions.



## Did You Know?

During term time parents have no legal right to take children out of school.

Headteachers are only able to authorise leave of absence during term time in exceptional circumstances.

An application for Leave of Absence form can be completed to evidence exceptional circumstances and returned to our Attendance Officer.

The Headteacher will decide if the leave of absence will be authorised. Unauthorised holidays in term time may trigger a penalty notice being issued.

***Attendance matters because every second counts! Good attendance = more learning opportunities = more choices/qualifications = more life choices.***

***Make it count for you!***

**For children of compulsory school age (5-16), the law says that it is parent/carers responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly (Section 444 of the Education Act 1996).**

Information and our Attendance Policy can be found on our website, further information can be found on the DfE and/or the Education Welfare Service websites.



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**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**



Willow Bank School  
Learn Grow Achieve Together

## Attendance Information Leaflet

### Taking care of your future.

Regular attendance helps pupils to achieve their potential.

Irregular attendance causes children to fall behind and be at a disadvantage.

It can also place children at risk.



School success starts  
with attendance

*Willow Bank School  
Success Every Day*

## What can you do?

You are legally responsible for:

Ensuring that your child attends school regularly.

You can meet your legal responsibilities, and support your child by:

- Ensuring that your child attends school every day.
- Ensuring your child is punctual by leaving home in time to get to school by 9.00 am.
- Supporting and encouraging your child in school by attending parents' evenings, meetings and other events.
- Making appointments for your child to visit the doctor (except in urgent cases), dentist or optician outside of school hours.
- Informing school on the first day of absences giving reason for absence.

Please provide medical evidence for absence or appointments. This could be a signed dated appointment card. A medical appointment letter, sight of any prescribed medication or signed and dated "Care at the Chemist" evidence.

**Don't be late!** Arriving on time at school will enable your child to start the day in a relaxed, enjoyable manner with participation in Form Time or Assembly when important notices are given out.

The link between attendance and success in school is clear: the more a pupil is in school the greater their opportunity to fulfil their potential.

MISSING  
(SCHOOL) =  
MISSING  
OUT

## Support for Pupils and Parents

At Willow Bank School, we work tirelessly to improve the attendance of all pupils. We also appreciate the support of parents and carers who understand how important attending school is, and know that good attendance gives the best opportunities for their child's future and life chances.

**Every day makes a difference!** A pupil who ends the year with 90% will have lost almost a month's education a year. Pupils with no absence are 1.5 times more likely to achieve their expected results at the end of Year 11.

Absence can also make a child more vulnerable to involvement with crime or anti-social behaviour.

### Meet the Team

Our Safeguarding Lead is Mr McKune  
Our Attendance and Family Support Officer is Mrs Savage.

Our Pupil/Parent Support Officer is Mrs Hall.  
Please contact school on 01744 678745 and ask for one of us if you have any concerns or require any support regarding your child's welfare and/or their attendance.

The Local Authority Education Welfare Service can be contacted on 01744 673356.



## Pupils



### Why do I need to come to school every day ?

- To LEARN new things
- To achieve your FULL potential
- To make FRIENDS and build Life Skills
- It is the LAW
- To get a JOB or go to COLLEGE

### What happens if I don't ?

- You WON'T LEARN
- Your Parents/Carers may get into trouble
- You will miss out on all the activities on offer.

Recipe for success for pupils:-

- Only stay at home if you are genuinely ill.
- Avoid taking holidays in school time.
- Ensure you get organised the night before, prepare your uniform and school shoes, pack Outdoor Education clothes ready for the morning.
- Get enough sleep.
- Talk to your parents about school and how you feel about it.
- Talk to someone if something is bothering you - you are not alone - we are here to help

