

Every family should aim for 100% attendance.

95% attendance should be the minimum target for every individual. (A ten day holiday, with no other absence in the year would give an individual only 94.7% attendance).

90% attendance means this is equal to:

- missing half a day every week
- missing over four weeks of school in the year
- missing half a year of school over a five year period.

So, even 90% attendance is not good enough.



The principles for attendance are based upon the Department for Education guidance and expectations of all parents.

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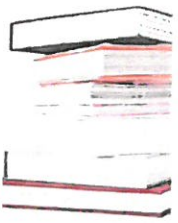
Blofeld
Primary School



Joint Statement
on Attendance



Full Attendance
= Full Learning



We believe as close to full attendance as possible is required for truly effective learning.

Any absence leads to a break in learning. It is hard to catch up on missed work when everyone else has moved on. Equally, the learning of others is disrupted whilst missed work is having to be re-taught.

“Good attendance is recognised and celebrated in our schools”.



The Law

It is the responsibility of the parents / carers to ensure their child attends school every day and arrives on time.

Even if you give your parental permission for an absence, if it is not authorised by the school it is illegal.

Each school can use fixed finance penalties and the court system for non attendance without authorisation, including unsupported holiday requests. This is in line with Norfolk and Central Government Policy. Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.



Arriving on Time

Any late arrival affects not only the learning of that individual but also disrupts the learning of others.



Illness

The school must be contacted on the first day of any illness and again if the absence goes over five days. Each school has the right to ask for medical evidence to cover longer absence or repeated absence for illness (e.g. medical certificate, prescription, medication). This is in line with Norfolk policy.



Authorised Absence

The school may authorise absence for some areas, including:

- medical visits (which cannot be arranged out of school time)
- religious observance
- exceptional circumstances (e.g. a family funeral).



Holidays

Government policy states that parents should not normally take children on holiday in term time. Therefore our schools will not, as a rule, authorise holidays in term time.

If you believe there are exceptional circumstances as to why a holiday request should be considered, you should:

contact the school before making a booking, using the school's system.

The Governors would like to stress that, in most cases, time off during term time for holidays will not be authorised.