



Attendance at The Sherwood School

Parents' Forum Presentation by Mrs Samouel
November 2025

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Why do children need to attend school?

The Legal Requirements

- ▶ School attendance is important because the law requires it. As a parent you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a full-time education. This means registering your child at school and making sure they attend regularly.
- ▶ Even taking a small amount of time off school can be a problem. Your child might fall behind in their work. If there are gaps in their knowledge it can take quite a bit of time to catch up.





Pupil absences remain above pre-Covid levels

- ▶ BBC article by education correspondent Hazel Shearing Friday 24th February 2023
- ▶ “The number of pupils regularly missing school in England has not returned to pre-Covid pandemic levels, according to official statistics. A quarter (25.1%) of pupils were persistently absent last term, compared with 13.1% in the autumn term of 2019. **Ours is currently 18.6%.** The government said the absence rate was driven by illness, with high levels of flu and other viruses circulating.”
- ▶ **Pupils count as persistently absent if they miss 10% or more of school sessions.**

Department for Education guidance



As a school we are tasked to:

- ▶ *prevent patterns of absence from developing by promoting good attendance
- ▶ *intervene early using data to spot patterns of absence before they become persistent and working with families to remove the barriers to attendance
- ▶ *target support for persistent and severe absentees with all local partners working together to re-engage pupils.

School culture expectations

- ▶ Make attendance central to the school's vision
- ▶ Recognise the interplay between attendance and wider improvement
- ▶ Have a school champion for attendance in place
- ▶ Set high expectations for attendance and punctuality
- ▶ Demonstrate the benefits of good attendance throughout school life
- ▶ Recognise that children missing education can be a vital safeguarding warning!!!



What is good attendance?

If your child achieves 90% in attendance for one academic year, would you think that is good?

What does it mean?

90% attendance = $\frac{1}{2}$ day missed every week

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
				?					



What is good attendance?

One academic year at 90% attendance = almost 4 weeks of lessons missed

Days off school add up to lost learning?

100% attendance	No learning missed – best chance of success
95% attendance	1 week missed , 4 days of learning missed – best chance of success
90% attendance	3 weeks, 4 days of learning missed – poor attendance I'm worried
85% attendance	5 weeks, 3 days of learning missed - Poor attendance I'm worried
80% attendance and below	At least 7 weeks, 3 days of learning missed- Very poor attendance I'm seriously concerned



How much odd absences add up and affect your child's progress at school?

Attendance rate	Equals days absent	Approximate number of weeks	Which mean this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lesson
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons



School Attendance Matters: Guidance

- Good attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential. School is where they learn, have fun, develop new skills, build confidence and self-esteem
- Children who regularly miss school without good reason are missing out on all of this and are likely to become isolated from their friends and underachieve.
- Making sure your child goes to school is your legal responsibility.

WHAT TO DO IF MY CHILD IS ABSENT?

1. Always inform the school if your child is absent
2. Contact the school office as soon as possible on the first day of absence

Holidays or requests for absences in term time - Absence will not be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances.



School Attendance Matters: Guidance

Managing childhood illnesses - Should your child attend or not?

RED- STAY AT HOME

Sickness & diarrhoea- 48 hours must have elapsed before a child can return to school from the last episode.

AMBER – SEEK ADVICE

Headache, Feeling sick,
Tummy Ache
Children often feel unwell if they are anxious, so if in doubt do contact us at school for advice.

GREEN – COME TO SCHOOL

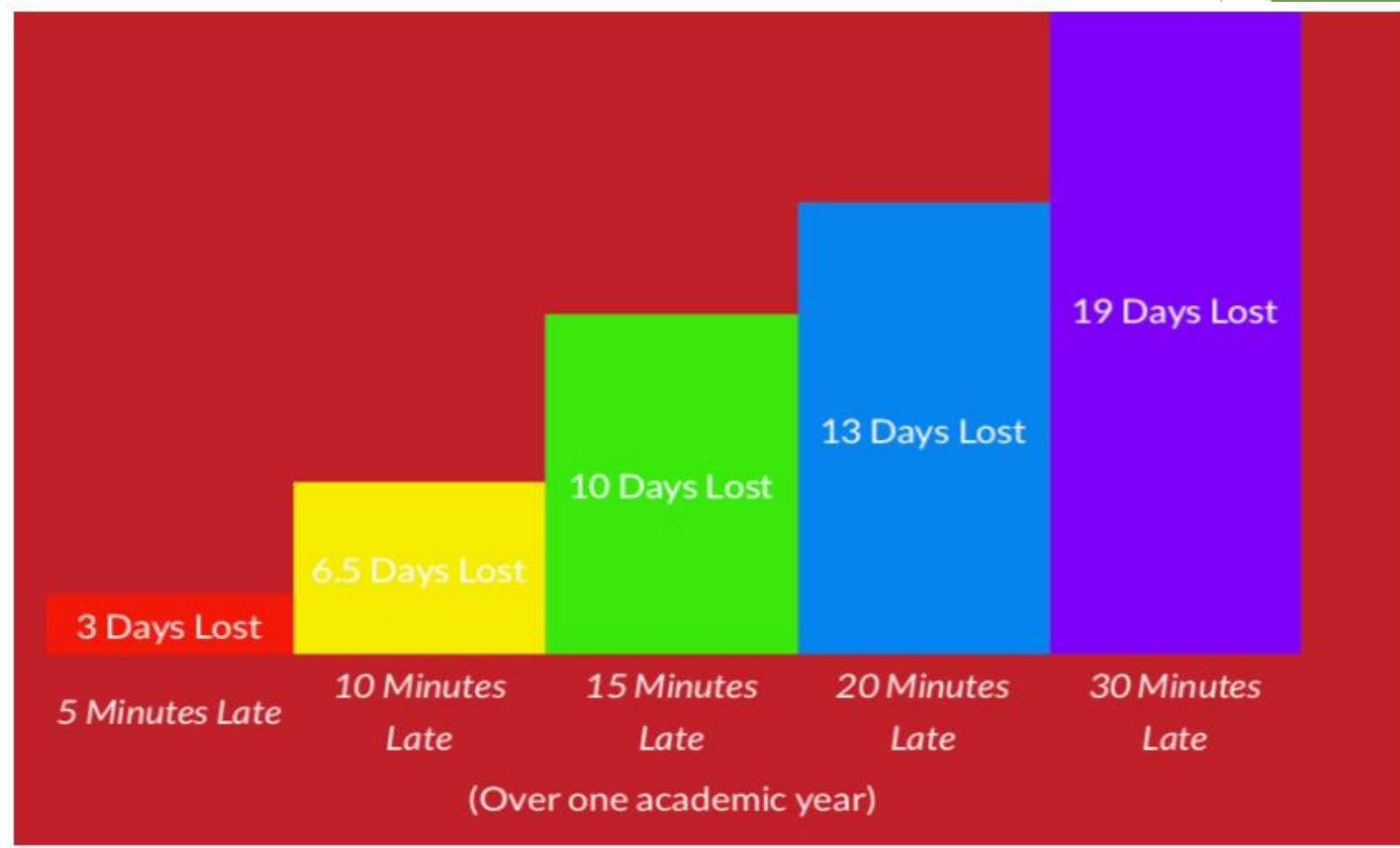
Mild cough, cold, sore throat, feeling tired.
We will always contact you if your child is ill during the school day.

Medical appointments- Where possible arrange outside of school hours. We accept sometimes this is not possible. However, if the appointment time allows your child to come to school for registration and then leave, this will have a positive impact on their attendance figure. Likewise, if they are back for the afternoon registration that is good too.

Punctuality



If a pupil arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. The graph on the right indicates the impact of a child being late to school every day over a school year and the amount of lost learning time. At The Sherwood we want every child to be in class ready to be registered at 8:50am. This is why we open the gates at 8.40am to enable all children to enter school early, prepared for the day's learning. Children who are not in class at this time risk a late mark.



Attendance - School Priorities



- Improve overall school attendance to meet the National target of 96%- it is currently 94.3%.
- Raise the profile of the importance of attendance in school to impact positively on the outcomes for all children.
- Use rewards and incentives to value good attendance , encourage good attendance and punctuality.
- Target support for individual children.
- Involve parents/carers in strategies to improve their child's attendance.
- Work closely with our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to support our families.
- Continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our strategies and feedback into attendance policy reviews.

Attendance Matters



Thank you for your time this evening!