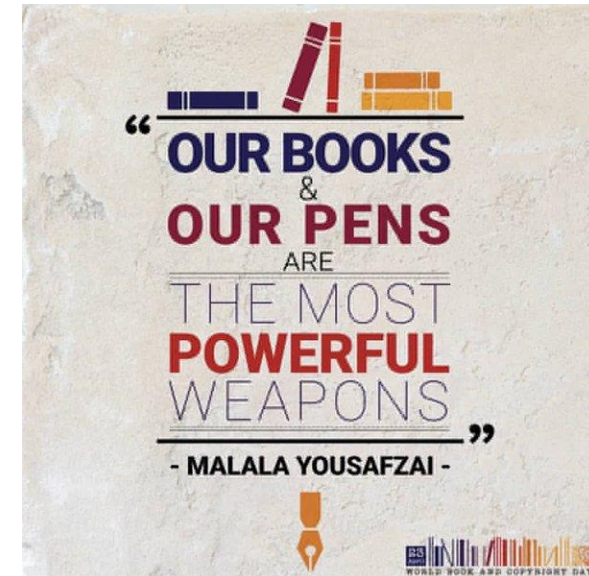


School Attendance

**The Foundation for Your Child's  
Education**

# Education is the Law

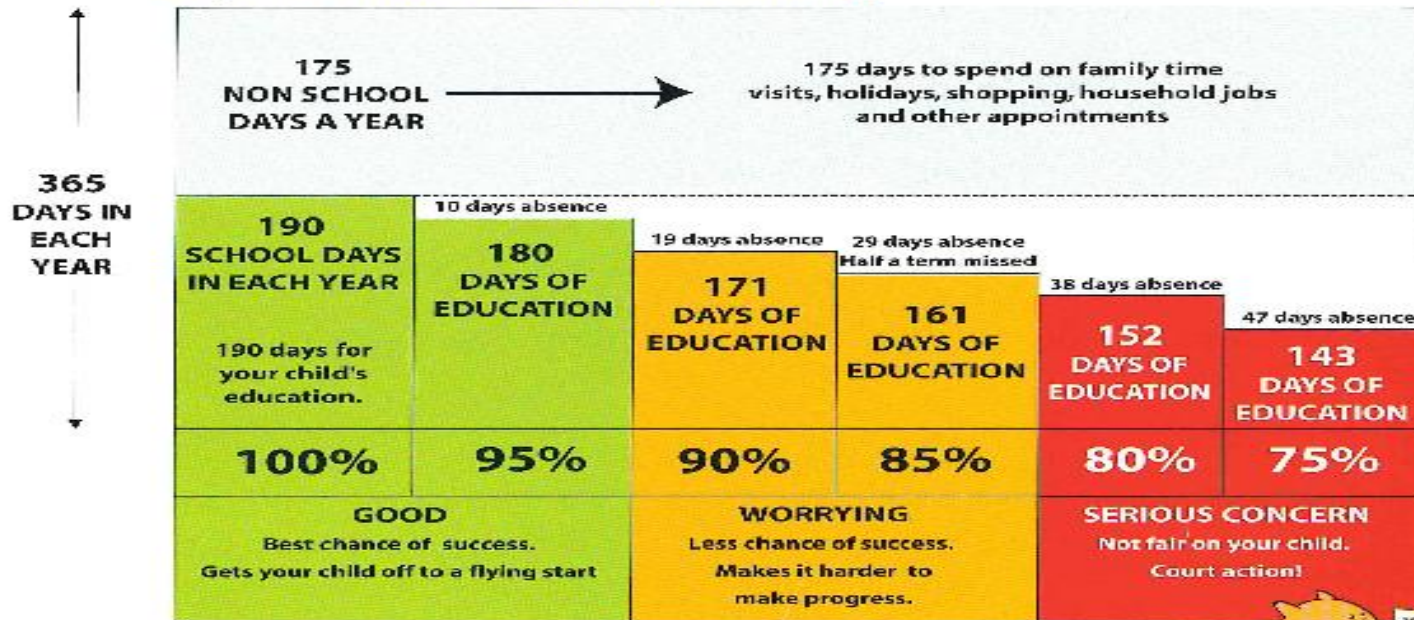
- Education - Legal requirement for children-5-16 yrs.
- **How often Is My Child Expected to Attend School?**  
96% of the school year including illness or other circumstances.
- **What is persistent absence?**  
Attendance of below 90%
- **What is severe absence?**  
Where a child is missing 50% or more of their education.



# Every School Day Counts



Days off school add up to lost learning



- Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.
- Every school day counts.



If you are worried about your child's attendance please talk to us at school about it  
You can also ring one of these numbers to speak to an Education Welfare Service advisor:

Cool Cats aim for 100%

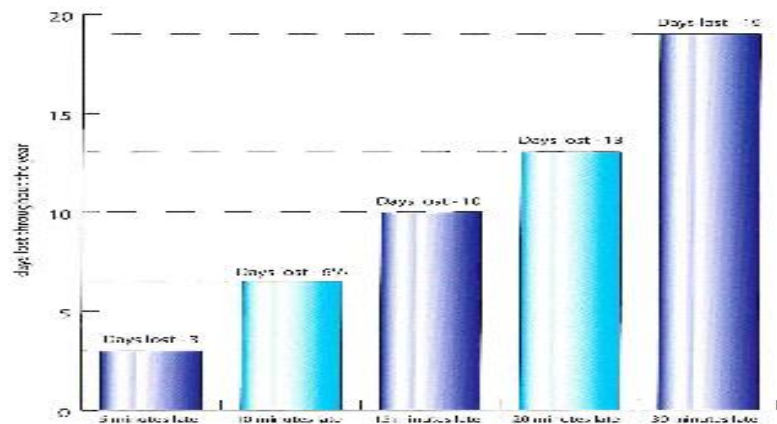




# Every School Day counts

## Being Late adds up to lost learning

- If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.



Days lost based on 180 school days

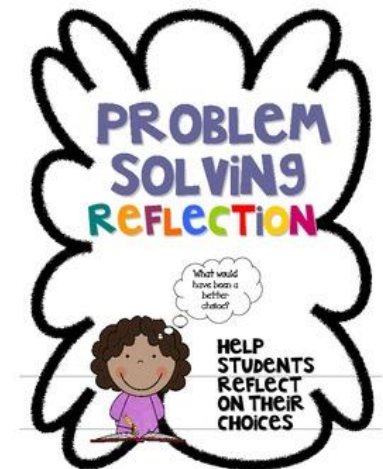
- **Being late every day can add up to a lot of lost learning time**
- **Please help your child to be punctual**

If you are worried about your child's attendance, please talk to someone at school or contact your local Education Welfare Service.



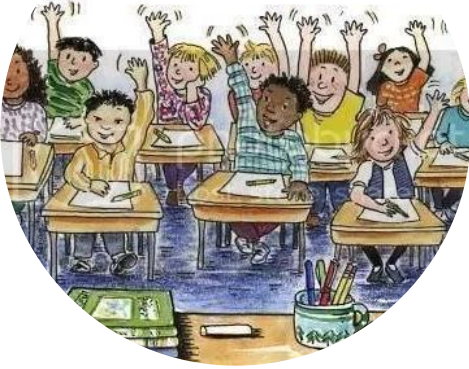
# The Importance of Attending School Regularly

- **Children develop social and academic skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives**
- **Children learn to socialise with others and make friends.**
- **Builds confidence and self esteem**
- **Problem solve**



## **How Parents Can Help**

- **Make sure there are strong routines on school days so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.**
- **Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules**
- **Ensure your child arrives at school on time-not late**
- **Arrange dental and medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible**
- **Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness**
- **Take family holidays outside of term time**
- **Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school life and school work**



- **Organise school bag and other equipment the night before.**
- **Make time for breakfast.**
- **Attend parent evenings and school events**
- **Praise and reward your child's achievements at school**
- **Support school staff in their efforts to support your child**
- **Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school-staff are there to help.**



## **The Law and School Attendance**

**The Education Act 1996 states that the parent of a registered pupil at a school should ensure that their child attends regularly**

**Parenting contracts-with school and other support-can be useful**

**Last resort enforcement action-  
Penalty Notice Warning**



**Penalty Notice (for persistent poor attendance or unauthorised leave during term time**



**Court Action-heavy fines plus court costs**



## **Myths About Education Welfare**

- We **are not** social workers-no power to remove children from their families
- We **do not** have the power to get your child your preferred school place or housing etc

## **IF YOU ARE MOVING HOME/MOVING ABROAD**

If you are moving please ensure that you complete the school's leaving form otherwise treated a child missing education →follow up procedures.

**Justina Foli**

**Merton Education Welfare Service**

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