



Pupil Absence Statement 2022

It has always been recognised, in a range of research, that pupils who have good attendance, do better at school than those who miss large amounts of their education.

Attendance is one of the basic skills children need:

- to learn
- to enjoy positive relationships with their peers
- to stay in future employment.

Following two national lockdowns due to Covid-19, and the partial closures of schools, this has resulted in some confusion over unauthorised pupil absence and penalty notices. This statement is to describe the expectations of attendance at Stuart Road Primary Academy.

In our end of year reports, we always tell you of your child's attendance. The expected level of attendance would be in line with national expectation of 96% or above.

All attendance of 95% and below is reviewed monthly by Ms Medicott and our Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Kerry McCoy. Unusual patterns, or attendance below 90%, will be followed up by letters, a phone call and/or a visit from Mrs McCoy. For families with unauthorised attendance or attendance below 90% (and not improving) legal warning letters are given.

Persistent lateness of 2 consecutive days or more will result in a warning letter, if the lateness persists, then a referral is made to the Education Welfare Office.

In the case of an unauthorised absence totalling 5 days, a warning letter will be issued.

But what does low or poor attendance look like?

96% attendance means your child has missed seven and a half days of school in a year.

95% attendance means your child has missed nine and a half days of school in a year.

85% attendance means your child has missed twenty-eight days (a month) of a school year.

82% attendance over your child's whole school career (5 to 16) is equivalent to a whole year out of school.

In all cases, any reason for a pupil's absence should be reported to the school office no later than **9am of the same day**.

We offer full support for those families who may be struggling to get their child into school and can utilise several options to help.

By working together we can ensure that no unnecessary school absence for any child takes place.

Reviewed annually