Parent Forum: Attendance

Aims:

- Explore why attendance is so important
- Outline the school's processes
- Gather parental feedback

Why attendance matters

- **Academic success**: Research shows a strong link between high attendance and achievement.
- **Engagement**: Regular attendance helps children build friendships and adapt to routines.
- **Continuity**: Missing lessons makes learning harder and disrupts progress.
- **Future readiness**: Good attendance supports smooth transitions to secondary school, higher education, and employment.
- **Safety and well-being**: Daily attendance ensures we know your child is safe and supported.

EEF, DfE and wider evidence

- **Parental engagement:** Involving families improves attendance.
- **Responsive interventions:** Tailored support addressing individual causes of absence shows promise.
- **Whole-school culture:** Clear expectations and consistent routines encourage attendance.
- **Link between attendance and attainment:** Pupils with 95%+ attendance are far more likely to meet expected standards.
- **Persistent absence:** Missing more than 10% of school days nearly doubles risk of underachievement.

EEF, DfE and wider evidence

- **Post-pandemic trends:** Absence rose to 7.6% in 2021/22, now falling but still above pre-COVID levels.

- **Enrichment activities:** Sports, arts, volunteering linked to improved attendance.

- **Community partnerships:** Collaboration with local services supports families facing barriers.

- **Equity focus:** Disadvantaged pupils are disproportionately affected by poor attendance.

School commitment

- **Raising awareness**: We regularly inform pupils and parents about the importance of attendance.
- **Daily monitoring**: Attendance is tracked every day, with follow-up on absences.
- **Attendance goals**: We aim for at least 96% attendance across the school.
- **Data tracking and support**: We monitor patterns and provide tailored assistance to families.
- **External partnerships**: We work with Education Welfare Officers and Redbridge Children's Services when needed.
- **Escalation**: If support measures fail, statutory actions may be taken by the Local Authority.

How parents can help

- **Ensure punctuality:** Arrive between 8.45-9.00 AM.
- **Report absences:** Notify school on each day of absence.
- **Plan appointments:** Outside school hours whenever possible.
- **Encourage routines:** Consistent bedtime and morning habits.

Processes in place

- **Electronic register**: Attendance recorded twice daily using national codes.
- **First-day contact**: Parents contacted immediately if a child is absent without notice.
- **Support plans**: Tailored interventions for families facing barriers.
- **Escalation procedures**: Fixed penalty notices or supervision orders if attendance does not improve.

Roles and responsibilities

- **Governing Board**: Sets expectations and monitors attendance data.
- **Headteacher**: Implements policy, monitors absence, and communicates expectations.
- **Attendance Officer**: Tracks data, liaises with families, and advises on interventions.
- **Class Teachers**: Record attendance daily and support punctuality.
- **Parents**: Ensure daily attendance, report absences, and provide emergency contacts.
- **Pupils**: Attend school every day, on time.

Conclusion

Good attendance = better learning, friendships, and future opportunities.

Supported by EEF evidence and DfE research.

We work together to make sure every child has the best chance to thrive.

Gilbert Colvin's website 'Attendance' page:

https://www.gilbertcolvin.co.uk/information-for-parents/attendance

Gilbert Colvin's website 'Local support and information' page:

https://www.gilbertcolvin.co.uk/information-for-parents/local-support-and-information