

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



HEAD TEACHER: MRS. A. D. THORPE

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Attendance Information

Our school attendance officer is called Lesley Sabourn.

Absentees

Our school monitors children whose attendance drops to 95% or under. It is really important that you are aware of your child's attendance as only a few days off school can make a big difference to the overall percentage. The information below shows how important regular attendance is for your child's education.

Above 97% - Less than 6 days absence per year - Excellent Attendance

These children will almost certainly achieve their full potential in school.

95-96% - 10 days absence per year - Missing 2 weeks of school every year

These children are likely to achieve but could still improve their attendance!

90% - 94% - 19 days absence per year - Missing one month of school every year

These children will find it hard to achieve their best in school.

85% - 89% - 29 days absence per year - Missing six weeks of school every year

These children will find it very difficult to keep up with work in school and are unlikely to achieve their potential.

80% - 84% - 38 days absence per year - Missing a year of school over the time spent in primary education

These children will find it almost impossible to keep up with their work.

Punctuality

We still have children who are regularly arriving to school late. There are occasions when last minute emergencies occur making you late which is unavoidable but when children arrive late nearly every day, it can be very demoralising and embarrassing for them. We only wish parents could see how the children try to "sneak" quietly into the classroom so they can't be noticed. Further action will be taken for parents who continually bring their children late to school as it is just so unfair on the children.

5 minutes late every morning = nearly half an hour of lessons missed every week.
10 minutes late every morning = nearly one hour of lessons missed every week.

5 minutes late every morning = nearly 6 hours of lessons missed every term.
5 minutes late every morning = nearly 12 hours of lessons missed every term.

5 minutes late every morning = nearly 1 week of lessons missed every year.
5 minutes late every morning = nearly 2 weeks of lessons missed every year.

Why is it so important to attend every day?

- Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day(s).
- Reading the material and completing work independently does not compensate for direct interaction with the teacher.
- Many classes use discussions, demonstrations, experiments and participation as part of the daily learning activities, and these cannot be made up by those who are absent.

Are there other benefits to my child?

- Pupils with good attendance records generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of other responsible patterns of behaviour.

What are the risks of frequent absences?

- A child who does not attend school regularly will be unlikely to keep up with the work.
- The more pupils miss School, the lower their grades; the lower their grades, the less they want to stay in school.

What can parents do to help?

- Parents must model the value of education, including the importance of regular attendance.
- Make sure that your child goes to school regularly and arrives on time-you will establish a good habit that they will carry through life.
- If your child starts missing School, work with the school to put things right. Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of him/her missing school.
- If your child is ill or must miss school for some other reason, contact school immediately.
- Do not expect school to approve of shopping trips, birthday treats etc. during school hours. Arrange family holidays so that your child will not miss any learning.
- Take an interest in your child's school work and be involved in the school as much as possible-your child will value school more if you do.

Leave of Absence in Term Time

From 1st September 2013, a change to government legislation means that schools are no longer allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time.

Requests for leave can only be granted by schools if there are "exceptional circumstances" and holidays are not considered exceptional. Requests for leave must be made to the head

teacher **in advance**, as the Department for Education has told schools that they cannot authorise any absences after they have been taken.

A penalty notice is a fine to parents or carers if they fail to ensure that their child/ren attend school regularly. If a penalty notice is issued, it will be one fine to cover the whole period of the absence. So the fine would be the same amount for an absence of five days or 10 days. For example, a parent could be issued with £60.00 fine if their child misses one day of school each week over a five week period, whilst another parent might be issued the same fine for one two-week block of absence.

Penalty fines are £60.00 per child per parent if paid within 21 days, and £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days. If the fine is not paid, parents will be reported for prosecution.

REMEMBER – Regular attendance is necessary for success in school. Help ensure that your child has the best opportunity for success by making sure he/she is in school every day.