

Is your child missing out?

Attendance Matters A Parent's Guide



East Lothian Partnership

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

Consider the following:

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start.
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory	
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor	Less chance of success. Makes it harder to progress.
85% Attendance	27 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Almost half a term missed	Very Poor	Serious implications on learning and progress.
80% Attendance	36 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Half a term missed	Unacceptable	
75% Attendance	45 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed Almost 1 whole term missed	Unacceptable	



If your child has 90% attendance they will have the equivalent of:

- ½ a day off per week,
- 19 days off per year
- 247 days off over their school career of 13 academic years, equivalent to over 1 year of lost education.

Consider what this means for 80% or even 75% attendance



Research shows that children who regularly miss more than 2 weeks of school throughout their Primary years tend to under-perform in their 4th year exams.



AVOID TAKING FAMILY HOLIDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL TERM

You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. A day of school missed is a missed opportunity for important learning and personal development.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence.



There are over 175 days a year available for holidays to be arranged outside term time!

MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Be aware of the impact of regular absences – missing school is missing out.
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Try to arrange non-urgent dental and medical appointments outside school hours and if an appointment must be made within school hours, try to ensure your child is back at school as soon as possible.
- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evening so your child is prepared for the school day ahead; build-up good habits of punctuality and attendance.
- Be involved with your child's education and school – ask questions.
- Inform the school if your child is absent due to illness or other reason.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school: staff are there to help and will be supportive.

What should I do if my child is anxious or worried about going to school?



Your child has a right to an education and to be safe and happy at school. But sometimes children and young people can be anxious or worried about going to school due to many possible reasons.

You may feel letting your child stay off school is an effective option, but unfortunately, this will not help find a solution. It's important to talk to the school if this kind of problem arises.

Your first point of contact should be the school. However there are also a number of agencies and services that can provide you with professional help and advice. (Contact details can be found on the following page).