

What St John the Evangelist Church School is doing to support attendance

All members of staff in our school understand how important attendance is and encourage a positive ethos regarding attendance for all pupils.

Attendance is monitored regularly with any unexplained absence being investigated by contact with home to enquire about the reason for absence. It is vital that the school has up to date contact details of at least **three** contacts.

This is usually a child's parent(s) and other trusted adults who can be relied upon to care for your child if a parent/carer is unable to.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to inform the school of any absence.

If a reason for absence has not been received on the first day of absence we will attempt to make contact with the first person on the list. If this is unsuccessful we will approach the other identified contacts. If we are unable to reach any contacts and no notification is given, and where we are concerned about the whereabouts of a child we may be required to call the local authority for support.

It is always best to ensure you keep the school fully informed of reasons for absence to avoid any unnecessary upset.

Your school contact for attendance matters is:

Mrs Denise Overton

Tel. No: 01275 873417

Email: enquiries@stje.bmat.org

Education Welfare Officer (EWO) & Noble Education Services (NES)

Where attendance is causing concern, we will always make every effort to discuss our concerns with you first and to offer any support that we can give. If poor attendance persists we may need to involve the school's Education Welfare Officer. We work closely with both Noble Education services (Independent educational welfare service) and North Somerset County Council.

The Education Welfare Officer visits the school regularly to monitor attendance and discuss with the school the best way to bring about improvement in a pupil's attendance, which may include the need to Issue a Penalty Notice or for parents/carers to attend an attendance clinic which is designed to help families who are struggling with attendance.

Penalty Warning Notices

In school, one day is equivalent to 2 sessions. Pupils who have 10 unauthorised sessions of absence (5 days) within a six month period may be issued a Penalty Notice or a Penalty Fine.

The Notice means that attendance is monitored especially carefully and any further absence could then result in a Penalty Fine of £60 per child, per parent, being imposed.

A parent who takes their child out of school during term time after the Headteacher has refused to authorise term time leave could also receive a Penalty Fine.

The school has its own attendance policy which provides details of how all the attendance procedures are managed. This is available on our school website.

<https://stjohnnevangelistbwmat.org/parents/attendance/>



**Attendance
at
St John the
Evangelist Church
School
is a
Priority!**

Guidance for Parents and Pupils

September 2023



**BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust**

'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10

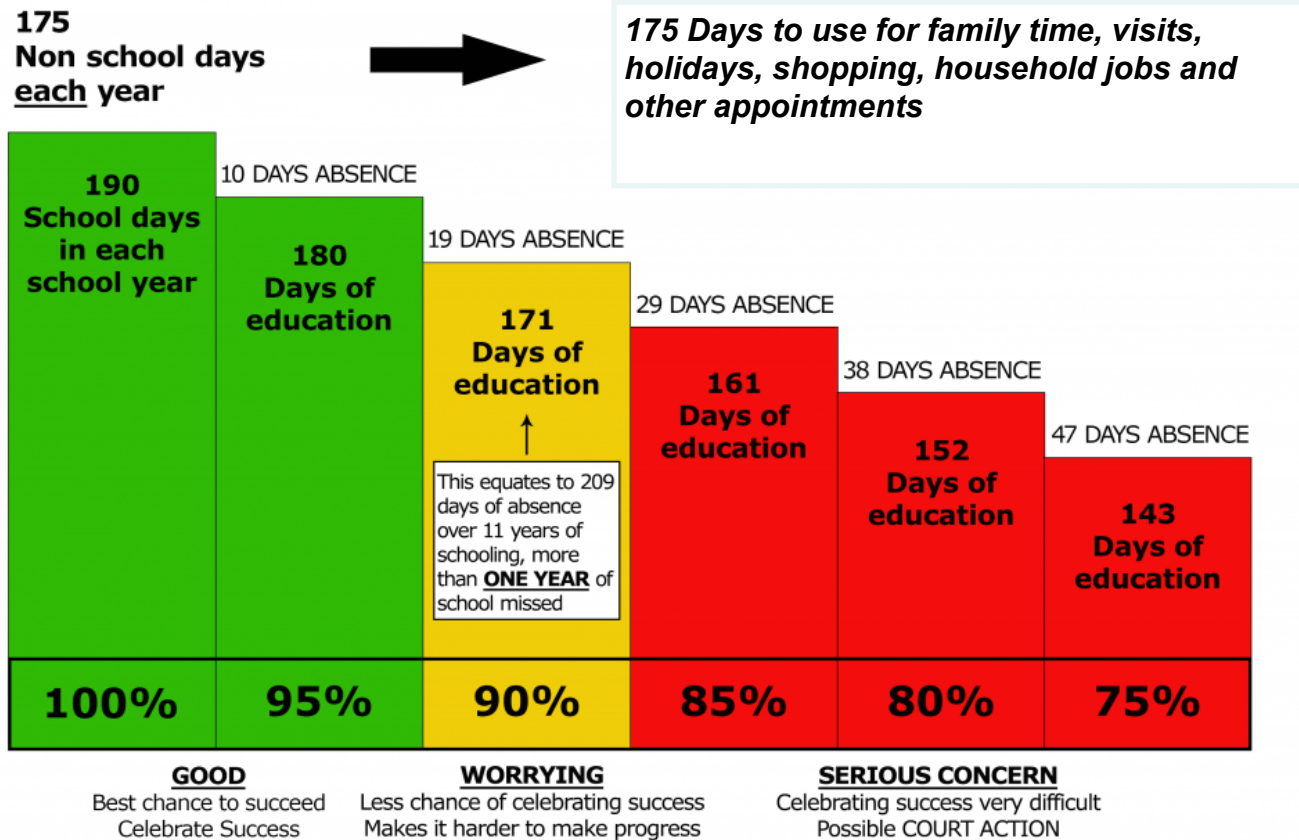
Major issues affecting school attendance

Why does attendance matter?

Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance and achievement in school. Poor attendance can have a direct effect on a pupil's attainment. For example, 90% attendance might sound quite good but what this means in reality is :-

- On average half a day's school missed every week
- This would also mean in one year four whole weeks of school would be missed

Pupils whose attendance is good are more likely to feel happy within their peer group socially, feel better able to 'keep up' academically and more able to cope with the many demands of a busy school life. Good attendance habits and punctuality in school are often carried into later life.



Term Time Leave

Pupils who are taken out of school during term time may find it hard to catch up and this can have a detrimental effect on their learning.

The law states that parents **do not** have the right to take their children out of school for holidays during term time.

Any request for Term Time Leave must be made in writing to the Headteacher in advance. Requests will not usually be granted. The Head teacher will only authorise term time leave in **EXCEPTIONAL** circumstances according to the DfE guidelines.

It is not the school's responsibility to issue work during term time leave as your child should be attending school.

Any unauthorised absence, including term time leave not agreed with the school, could result in a Penalty Notice being issued to each parent for each child affected.

Medical

We would not expect any parent to send their child to school if they were genuinely unwell. However, if your child is going to be absent for 5 consecutive days we may request medical evidence to support the absence.

If your child is feeling 'under the weather' it is usually best to bring them to school. We will contact you if a child becomes too unwell to remain in school.

COVID-19

ALL children are expected to attend school from September 2021. Parents may face a fine or further prosecution for keeping their children at home when they are well.

COVID should be treated as any other illness and children should only stay at home. if they have a temperature and/or they are too unwell to attend. There is no requirement to carry out a COVID test or self isolate at this current time.

It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to contact the school before 9.15am on every day of absence