

Attendance



ENFIELD
Council



Aim

- To understand why school attendance is so important.
- To get to know processes and what the law says about attendance.



School

- Children get to see their friends every day.
- They get to join in lots of fun things.
- Children don't miss out on learning important things.
- They might get a certificate or award for having good attendance.

Children who have good school attendance tend to do better in tests and exams.

Going to school every day helps children prepare for when they are adults and go to work every day.



School Attendance Facts

The government says children should have an attendance of at least 95%.

Having 90% attendance is like having one school day off every two weeks.

Having 80% attendance is like having one school day off every week.

If your children have a two-week holiday during school time each year they are in primary school, they will have missed **14 weeks** of school by the time they finish year 6.

Why Might Children Miss School?

Good Reasons

- Being sick
- Illnesses, such as chickenpox
- Celebrating a religious event

Not Good-Enough Reasons

- Being tired
- Going shopping
- Not having done homework
- Having to babysit
- Holidays being cheaper
- Not having the correct things, such as a PE kit
- Not wanting to go



What does the law say?



It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their children receive an education.

Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act states that: ***"If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his/her parent is guilty of an offence"***.

Attendance Ladder



Equates to:

4 SCHOOL DAYS off each year

7 SCHOOL DAYS off each year

9 SCHOOL DAYS off each year

11 SCHOOL DAYS off each year

20 SCHOOL DAYS off each year

30 SCHOOL DAYS off each year

Attendance Certificate

[Redacted Name]

Summary (01 Sep 2023 - 31 Aug 2024)

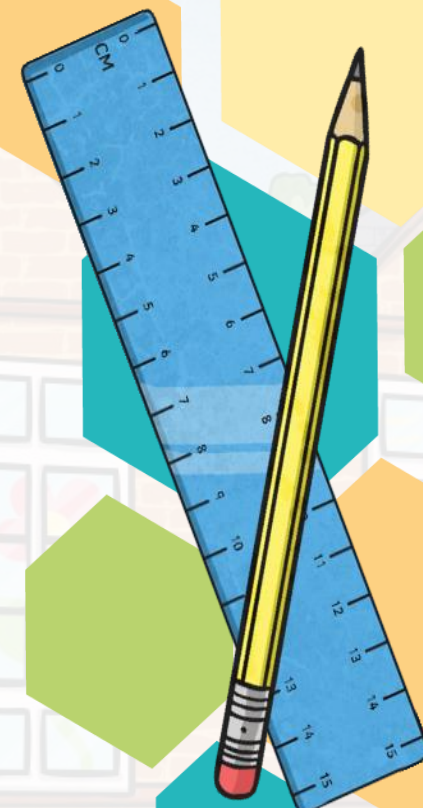
Attendances	311	83.8%
Authorised absences	19	5.1%
Unauthorised absences	41	11.1%
Possible attendances	371	

Including

Approved educational activity	0	0.0%
Late before register closes	37	10.0%
Late after register closes	9	2.4%
No reason given	0	0.0%

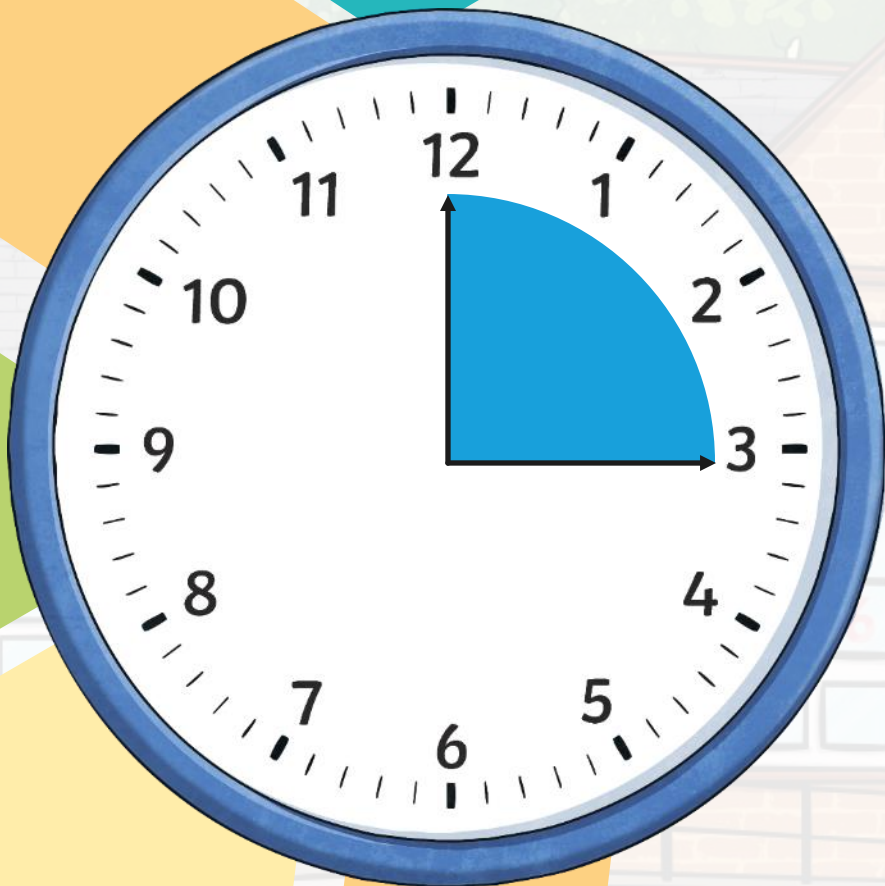
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22 Jul 2024	##	##	##	##	##
29 Jul 2024	##	##	##	##	##
05 Aug 2024	##	##	##	##	##
12 Aug 2024	##	##	##	##	##
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26 Aug 2024	##	##	##	##	##



Being Late

If your children are 15 minutes late for school every day, this would mean that they are absent from school for a total of two weeks.



**15 minutes
= 2 weeks**



When is my child late to school?

8:40 am Soft Start

8:50 am Starting time

9:00 am Registers close

9:00 – 9:30 am Late (L)

After 9:30 am Unauthorised late (U)

Key Stage 1 - School day:

8:50 am until 3:30 pm

Reporting your child late and/or absence
(Tina Solari)

020 8368 2552 (option 1)

or email

office@bowesprimary.org

What is an authorised absence?

- When school has agreed with the reason why the child is not at school. A school will agree with an absence if:
 - *Child is too ill to go to school and the school agrees to this.*
 - *Parent has asked for permission from the school beforehand*
 - *Child has been excluded.*
 - *Child has a medical or dental appointment.*
 - *Child is on study leave (only applies to year 11).*
 - *Child is being educated off-site.*
- If school authorises the absence, school will not take any further action.

What is an unauthorised absence?

- When school has not agreed with the reason why a child is not at school then school may record it as an unauthorised absence. Some examples:
 - *Going on holiday or travelling abroad*
 - *Days off for birthdays, shopping trips*
 - *Feeling tired*
 - *Bad weather*
 - *Non urgent appointment*
 - *Parent unwell to bring them to school*
- If a child is regularly absent from school without authorisation, school needs to take action in the first place. If school's interventions fail, further action should be taken to ensure the child attends school.

How Can We Improve Attendance?

Talk to your children at home about the importance of school attendance.

Know the good and bad reasons for missing school.

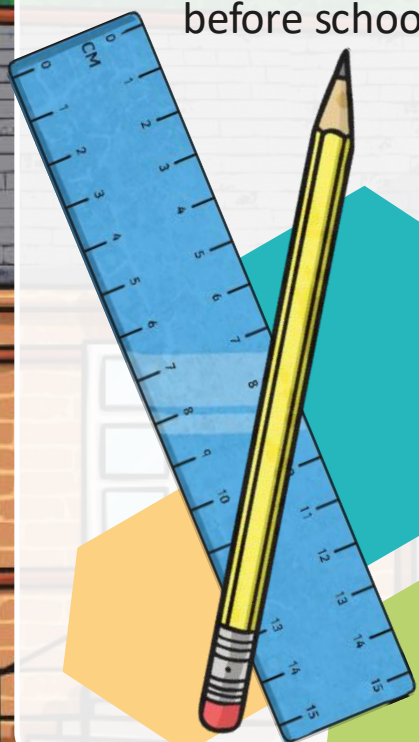
Encourage your child to get their uniform and school equipment ready the night before school.

Children must go to bed at a reasonable time.

Set your alarm early enough to make sure you and your children have enough time to get ready.

Encourage your child to have a healthy breakfast.

Your child should do everything they can to keep healthy – this could include eating healthy and washing their hands regularly.



Time for Questions?



Rosana Hermosa
Education Welfare Officer
Enfield Council