

Eastlea Attendance Guide for Parents



Our Designated Attendance Lead is Miss Beeston, the Head Teacher.

Parents/Carers will receive regular updates on attendance from school and the Head Teacher and all the staff monitor attendance daily, weekly, half termly and termly. Children are encouraged and rewarded in school for classes/individuals who have high levels of attendance and the staff make it clear why excellent attendance is so important:

- Weekly attendance trophy/letters home for the class with the highest percentage attendance – each class aims for 96%+ attendance
- Assembly 'Party poppers' for any class achieving their target of 100% attendance
- Punctuality plaques for classes who have no 'lates' recorded or fewer 'lates' than the week before
- End of term certificates for any child who has not missed a day of school
- Special rewards for children who have 100% attendance for the whole school year!

Why is regular school attendance so important for my child?

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life.

School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships. A regular and punctual attendance pattern will help your child when they go to secondary school and later enter the world of work.

The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear: the more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.



Attendance Ladder



Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. At Eastlea we think that 96%+ attendance is what every child should really aim for.

We follow the national guidelines for our attendance 'aims' and are aware that attendance percentages can be misleading.

e.g. 90% (the national threshold for persistent absence) may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

Punctuality

Schools are legally required to take a register of pupils twice a day. At Eastlea the day begins at 8.45am and the register is taken first thing in the morning and again at the start of the afternoon session.

Good punctuality is important because if, for example, a child arrives 15 minutes late at school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year! Patterns of poor punctuality are something that is also discussed with the school's Education Welfare Officer.

Holidays during term time

No term time leave of absence for holidays is routinely authorised at Eastlea.

Parents/Carers who choose to take their child out of school without written permission from the school may be issued with a fixed penalty fine.

Only in exceptional circumstances may a head teacher grant permission for leave of absence in term time.

How can I help my child attend school regularly?

- Talk to your child about school.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- Keep in touch with school staff by telephone or Tapestry/Seesaw if there is an issue.
- Contact school (by telephone – 01670 732261) on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason.
- Attend parents' evenings and other school events.

What should I do if I'm worried about my child's school attendance?

The first thing to do is to contact the school to discuss your concerns so that we can see if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

What are my responsibilities regarding my child's school attendance?

As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to ensure that any child of compulsory school age attends school both regularly and on time. The local authority has a duty to make sure that all parents/carers fulfil this responsibility.

What will happen if my child does not attend school regularly?

School staff will contact you if there are concerns about your child's attendance. Support will be offered where we can. If we see no improvement, or there are particular difficulties involved, a referral can be made to the Education Welfare Service to see what help they can provide.

What if I do not seek support and my child's school attendance does not improve?

Parents whose children are on a school register and fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child(ren), may be guilty of an offence under Section 444 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996 and the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice or take enforcement action through the Courts to secure regular attendance.

How will regular school attendance help my child?

Eastlea gives your child a wide range of opportunities and experiences in the form of academic lessons, educational visits, activities and school clubs allowing them to develop their interests and achieve their full potential. Regular school attendance means that your child can make the most of their education and the opportunities Eastlea has to offer.

If you need any more information about the systems in place to monitor attendance at Eastlea please just ask Miss Beeston and if there is any further support that you feel we can offer then talk to your child's class teacher.