



Attendance

Benefits of good attendance

- **Good habits/routines** — It helps children with the idea that getting up and going to school is simply what you do. Children who attend every session helps them gain a sense of security, even when the actual pattern, learning or activity may vary from week to week.
- **Secure relationships with adults and peers** - children find it easier to build and sustain relationships when they regularly attend school. A good routine helps to develop a secure attachment to peers and the adults in school.
- **Self esteem** - Children who rarely miss school and come on time are more likely to feel good about themselves. This is because they know what goes on and what to expect, feel more confident with the adults and the other children and have more opportunities to be valued and praised for their own contribution and successes. Children who regularly miss school or are generally late, can frequently experience a sense of having to try a little bit harder to fit in. Regular attendance, helps children to separate from their parents or carers and settle more readily into their learning.
- **Learning and development** -Experiences gained in one session are often developed further in the next session, even if they are not consecutive days. Children learn in many different ways and with their peers. Underachievement is often linked to lower attendance.
- **Safe guarding** — Paying close attention to attendance for potentially vulnerable groups of children is equally important.

These could be:

- Children who are known to social care
- Immigration issues
- Children who may be subject to a forced marriage, honour based violence, female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation children facing difficult family circumstances e.g., housing problems, bereavement, separation/ divorce
- Children from families experiencing financial hardship, e.g. claiming Free School Meals (FSM)
- Children with additional needs, learning difficulties or disabilities
- Children with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Incentives for good attendance

- **Challenge Bands** – 3 times a year we have an attendance week challenge.
- Inform parents at every parents evening (Nov/Feb-Mar/July) of attendance figure
- **Attendance booklets** - go out to parents (Nov/Mar/Dec) informing them of attendance figure and details of our attendance policy
- **Weekly attendance Cup** - awarded at every Celebration Assembly. (Info is also displayed on the classroom door and on the school's website.)
- **Termly Attendance** – (Sept-Dec, Jan-Apr, May-Jul) CH to set up reward for these children and give attendance badges out.
- **Gold Certificates** – awarded at Celebration Assembly at the end of the year for 100% for the whole school year.
- **End of year Raffle** – All children who have achieved 100% for the whole school year go into a raffle and awarded a prize – CH to arrange.

What did we do to support families in improving attendance?

Nudge letters - if starting to fall near 90%

Below 90% letter - advising parents that attendance needs to improve, invite discussion around any issues and offer support to help raise the attendance.

Below 85% letter - advising parents that attendance is unacceptable. Invite further discussion and put them on an attendance plan/offer support. Advise parents of potential referral to ESW if still no improvement made.

Attendance Plan – this is normally discussed with parents and expectations are clear. Support is offered to parents and children following this.

Walking Bus & Early Bird Club – This is primarily offered to parents whose child is in receipt of FSM.

Early Bird & Walking Bus

Purpose and benefits of EB & WB

- Nurturing environment
- To support parents short term, when they are struggling to get there child to school at all or on time due to unforeseen circumstances.
- To help raise attendance and punctuality
- To support parents when home work is a challenge to complete due to a chaotic home life.
- To help provide the child with morning routine and structure.
- To provide the child with emotional support.
- To help build relationships with parents and carers.
- To help the child develop a sense of independence
- To help them regulate their behaviour