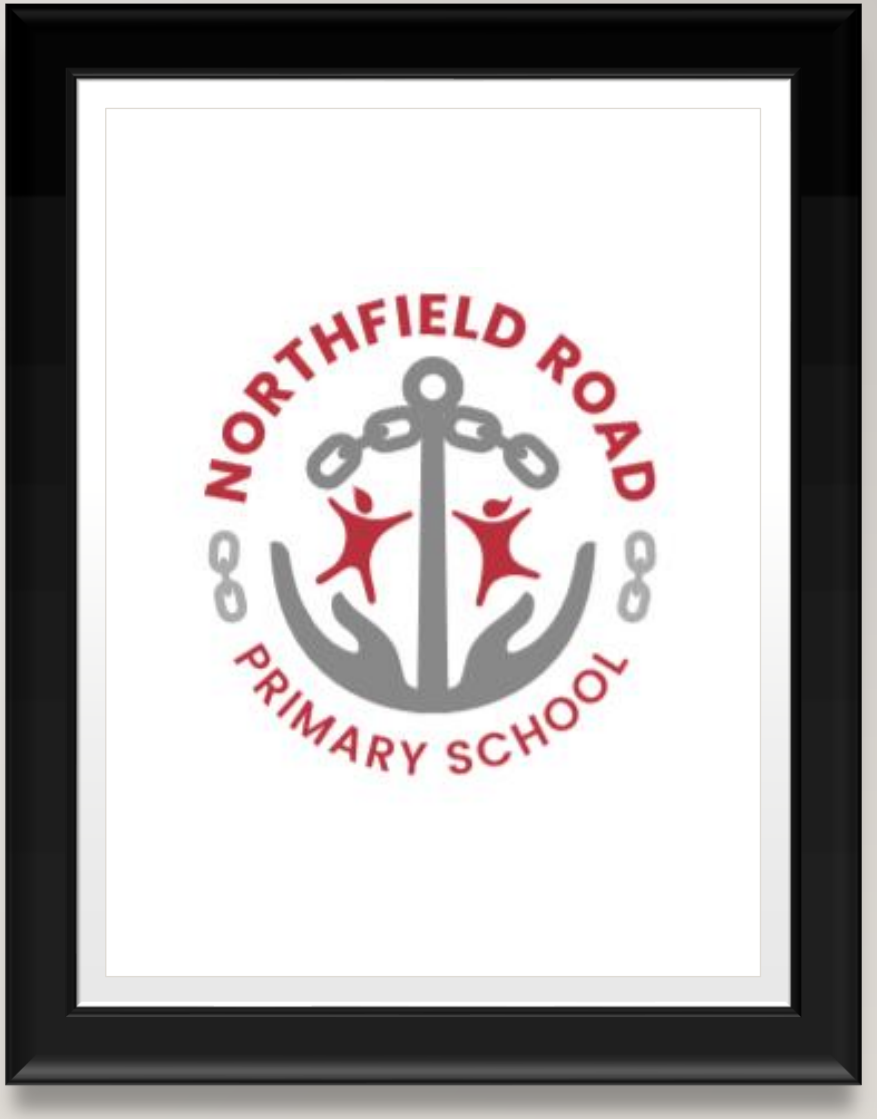
NORTHFIELD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

CARING TOGETHER, LINKED TOGETHER, STRONGER TOGETHER

ATTENDING SCHOOL IS VITAL FOR FUTURE SUCCESSES





- Do you know what your child's attendance is?
- Do you know what it means?

QUIZ TIME

Northfield Road

Attendance Quiz!

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED MINIMUM ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE SET OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT?

A. 80%

B. 85%

C. 90%

D. 95%

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED MINIMUM ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE SET OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT?

The answer is 'D': 95%

This is the minimum expectation that the Government have for all children to attend school.

WHAT ABSENCE PERCENTAGE IS CONSIDERED AS 'PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM' BY THE GOVERNMENT?

A. >30%

B. >20%

C. >10%

D. >5%

WHAT ABSENCE PERCENTAGE IS CONSIDERED AS 'PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM' BY THE GOVERNMENT?

The answer is 'C': >10%

Any absence above 10% is classified as 'persistent absenteeism'.

WHO CAN AUTHORISE A STUDENT TO HAVE TIME OFF SCHOOL?

A. Parent

B. A doctor

C. A relative

D. The Head Teacher

E. The child themselves

WHO CAN AUTHORISE A STUDENT TO HAVE TIME OFF SCHOOL?

The answer is only 'D': The Head Teacher

(who may delegate this authority to another member of staff)

Other people may give information to the Head Teacher to inform his/her decision, but this is not the same as giving authorisation for the absence.

FOR WHAT REASON(S) ARE STUDENTS ALLOWED A DAY OFF SCHOOL?

A. To visit a relative

B. To go to the Dentist / Doctor

C. To go on Holiday

D. To buy school uniform

E. Because it is their birthday

FOR WHAT REASON(S) ARE STUDENTS ALLOWED A DAY OFF SCHOOL?

None of these reasons!

Students can attend emergency medical and dental appointments, *but* it is important that they attend school before/after these appointments, where possible. Time may be given in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Head teacher. This is extremely unusual.

IF A STUDENT IS LATE TO SCHOOL WILL THIS COUNT AS AN ABSENCE?

A. Yes – always

B. Yes – if they arrive after register closed

C. Yes – if they arrive after break

D. No – Never

IF A STUDENT IS LATE TO SCHOOL WILL THIS COUNT AS AN ABSENCE?

The answer is 'B': a student will be counted as absent for that school session (half a day) if they arrive after the register closes.

If a student has been delayed due to exceptional circumstances beyond their control - for example, a bus breaking down - this may be taken into account and marked differently, but this decision can only be taken by the Head Teacher or their delegated representative.

IF JOHN HAS 90% ATTENDANCE AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, HOW MUCH TIME HAS HE MISSED?

A. 3 weeks

B. 2 weeks

C. 4 weeks

D. 5 weeks

E. 1 week

IF JOHN HAS 90% ATTENDANCE AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, HOW MUCH TIME HAS HE MISSED?

The answer is 'C': 4 weeks

- this is a lot when you realise that the student school year is only 38 weeks long!

If John keeps his attendance at 90% for his whole five years at secondary school, he will have missed over half a year of school – 20 weeks!!

WHO CAN HELP TO IMPROVE OUR STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE?

A. The student
B. The student's parent(s)/family
C. Admin staff
D. The student's keyworker
E. CELC teachers
F. Pastoral Managers
G. SLT
H. The Head Teacher
I. Outside Agencies

WHO CAN HELP TO IMPROVE A CELC STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE?

The answer, of course, is all of these people.

As Northfield Road staff, we all have a responsibility to monitor and encourage student attendance, whilst engaging students and families in working with us to ensure that the young person is able to attend school and maintain their education wherever possible.

Why Focus on Attendance?

High numbers of school absence are:

- An early warning sign of potential NEETS (Post-16s: Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- Predictive of academic failure
- A red flag for student disengagement

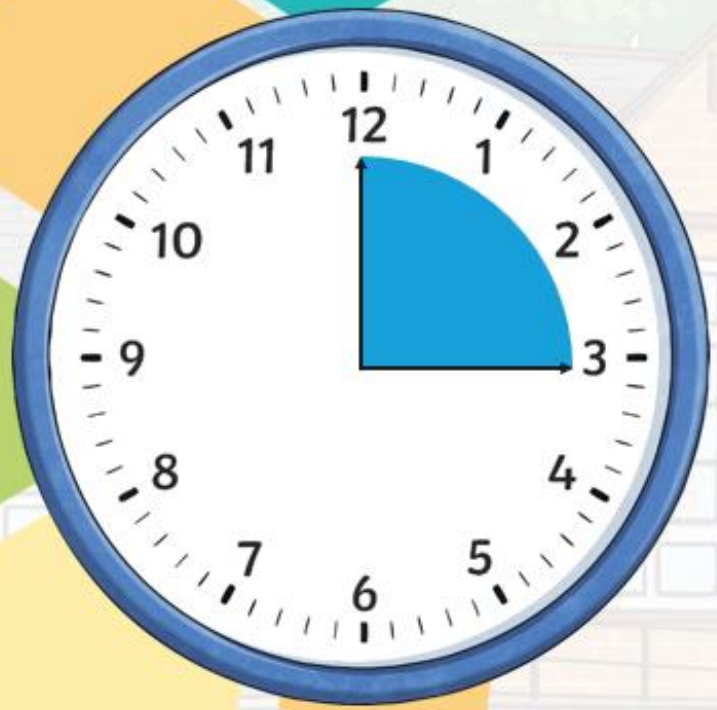
Schools that make attendance gains bring together:

- School staff members
- Parents/families
- Students
- Outside agencies

All of the above should be brought together to review data, identify related issues, and then collaboratively develop strategies to improve student attendance.

Being Late

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



15 minutes = 2 weeks

What Parents Can Do?

You can support your child to attend school by:

- Ensuring your child arrives on time each day, ready to learn.
- Take an interest in the education of your child, by talking to them about school and by keeping in regular communication with school.
- Call the school before 9:30am, on each day of absence.
- Be alert to any signs that might indicate bullying or other issues that could affect school attendance.
- Inform the school immediately if there are any matters that arise that may affect the attendance of your son/daughter.

190 school days

175 days to do everything else!

	Percentage	Comment	
Green Less than 30 hours of lost learning.	96 – 100%	Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly achieve the best levels/grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will assist them to accomplish their future aspirations.	
Amber 50 hours of lost learning	94 – 95.9%	**Stage 1:** Your child's attendance is a cause of concern. An attendance consultation is required to identify any barriers to learning and initiate school support. We hope that by bringing this to your attention now, your child will soon return to green attendance.	**95% 10 days absence a year – 50 hours of learning lost** These pupils are less likely to achieve their target levels/grades and will start to find it difficult to maintain a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2-week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.
	91 – 93.9%	**Stage 2:** Your child's attendance is a cause for concern. A formal meeting is required to review any barriers to learning, initiate school support and offer Early Help Support.	
Red 96 hours of lost learning	90% and below	The Government classes pupils in this group as 'Persistent Absentees' unless this is rectified it will be impossible for your child to keep up with work and achieve their target levels/grades. A formal meeting with the Head Teacher is required to agree an action plan. Unless rapid improvement is made, we will refer to The Dudley Education Support Service and take legal proceedings which could result in a fine.	

WHAT IMPACT MIGHT THIS HAVE ON SIMON'S LIFE?

Research suggests that **17 missed school days** a year **=** GCSE grade **DROP** in achievement. (DfES)

The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.



What could Simon's potential earnings look like?



What do you want for your child?

NORTHFIELD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

EVERY day counts
attendance matters

What does good attendance mean for your child?

In lessons learning

Every lesson counts

Establish good routines/behaviour patterns

Experience for life

Opportunities to make and keep friends

Social skills

Better life chances

Positive future

What does good attendance mean for you?

Routines and boundaries

Good and better behaviour

School experience and learning/Friendships made

Positive now/positive future

LINKED TOGETHER – WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

Support and Challenge as 'every second counts'

Support: through school and/or external to aid positive communication, remove barriers and improve outcomes for children and families

Challenge: through open and honest conversations that highlight concerns, inform parents of responsibility and do this in a jargon free, straight-talking way

Support: through school and/or external to aid positive communication, remove barriers and improve outcomes for children and families

- Communicating with you: phone calls, letters, meetings and presentations
- Doorstep visits/home visits
- Working with external bodies e.g. school nurse, support worker etc

Who can help?

Mrs Falconer – Attendance Officer

Mrs Glover – Pastoral & Safeguarding

Jacqui Potter – School Nurse

Support worker

Early Help Assessment

Questions and/or comments