



# West Kirby Primary School Attendance Matters

September 2021

## Why does attendance matter?

- Regular school attendance is central to raising standards in education and to improving the life chances of **all** children.
- Regular attendance at school enables children to gain maximum benefit from the range of educational and wider opportunities available to them.

#EVERYDAYCOUNTS

## Attendance in Wirral Schools...

The need for regular school attendance is given a high priority by all Wirral Schools.

Regular attendance is defined as: 'in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school.'

In Wirral schools, this is interpreted as **every day that the school requires a child to attend unless the absence has been approved by the Headteacher.**

Please be aware of our school holidays and Inset Days for 2021/2022  
[WKPS Holiday Dates 2021-2022](#)



## Responsibilities and Expectations of Parents & Carers...

- To ensure that your child attends school every day that school is open unless there is a genuine and unavoidable reason that prevents them from this. We appreciate that children do get poorly and at times the best place is at home.
- To ensure that your child arrives on time every day -[school starts at 8:45am](#). A reason should be offered for any lateness.
- To inform us as soon as possible, by phone, email ( [schooloffice@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk) ) or in person if your child is unable to attend school – along with the reason for absence.
- To make medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible and to inform school in advance of any medical appointments that cannot be scheduled out of school time.
- To talk to us at school as soon as possible if your child becomes reluctant to come to school for any reason, or if there are any other issues impacting on their school attendance. This is so that any problems can be quickly identified and overcome, or additional support put in place.
- To take family holidays during school holiday periods, and to be aware that **there is NO entitlement to withdraw children for authorised leave of absence during term time**. Any request for leave of absence during term time should be **made in writing and in advance** to the Headteacher. There is a form available if a request needs to be made.

*Changes in Government Regulations mean that as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, there is no entitlement for parents to withdraw their children for authorised leave of absence in term time. A Headteacher can only grant leave if there are exceptional circumstances surrounding the request. If the Headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances to warrant the granting of leave of absence, the Headteacher will then determine the number of school days a child can be away from school. Exceptional circumstances are defined as rare, significant, unavoidable and short, with unavoidable meaning an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.*

<p>HIGH ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL GETS YOUR CHILD'S LIFE OFF TO A <b>FLYING START!</b></p>	<p>INCREASING ATTENDANCE BY JUST 5% CAN <b>DOUBLE</b> THE CHANCES OF GAINING GOOD QUALIFICATIONS</p>	<p>MISSING TWO DAYS A MONTH MEANS A CHILD MISSES <b>10%</b> OF THE SCHOOL YEAR</p>	<p>GOOD ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL</p> <p><b>Improves reading</b></p> <p>Writing + MATHS SKILLS</p>
<p>THERE ARE <b>175</b> DAYS A YEAR NOT SPENT IN SCHOOL</p> <p>PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHOPPING, HOLIDAYS AND APPOINTMENTS!</p>	<p><b>100s</b> OF SUBJECTS   <b>1000s</b> OF CLASSES</p> <p>ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES</p>	<p>TURNING UP JUST <b>5</b> MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY ADDS UP TO OVER <b>3</b> DAYS LOST IN THE YEAR!</p>	<p><b>MORE SCHOOL =</b></p> <p>HIGHER GRADES INCREASED CONFIDENCE MORE FRIENDS BRIGHTER FUTURE</p>

**Good attendance really does matter.**

# 97%

Is the **expected attendance** of all compulsory age school children. If your child's attendance drops below this, this is where stepped interventions start to be implemented.

This includes: a phone call home, a letter of concern, 1:1 meetings, a fixed penalty notice (in cases of unauthorised attendance), an attendance panel meeting and the involvement of a Wirral Attendance Officer.

More information about Attendance can be found in our Attendance Policy (2021), which is available on our school website.  
[WKPS Attendance Policy 2021](#)

**Interim Reports and End of Year Reports will update you on your child's attendance.  
Look out for our attendance celebrations throughout the year.**