



**Blackwell
School**



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every pupil, every day

This leaflet aims to clarify our expectations regarding attendance and explain why we think it is so important for children to be in school.

Good attendance at school is the single most important factor to ensure that young people have the maximum life chances - attendance is strongly linked to educational achievement. Promoting positive school attendance is everyone's responsibility.

- Pupils who miss school risk failing to achieve their full potential.
- Figures have shown that 90% of persistent, poor or non-attenders fail to achieve five or more good grades at GCSE and approximately one third achieve no GCSEs at all.
- Developing good habits of attendance and punctuality are key life skills.
- When pupils miss school, they miss out!

Good attendance is important in order for children to:

- Achieve their potential.
- Develop a positive attitude towards school and good habits of punctuality and attendance.
- See themselves as an important part of the school community and to value and respect school life. Schools recognise that this can only be achieved through a close partnership with parents.
- 90% attendance = ½ day missed every week!
- Over one school year, this is 4 weeks of learning lost!
- Over the 5 years at your primary school, you will have missed half a year!

What impact might this have on your child's future?

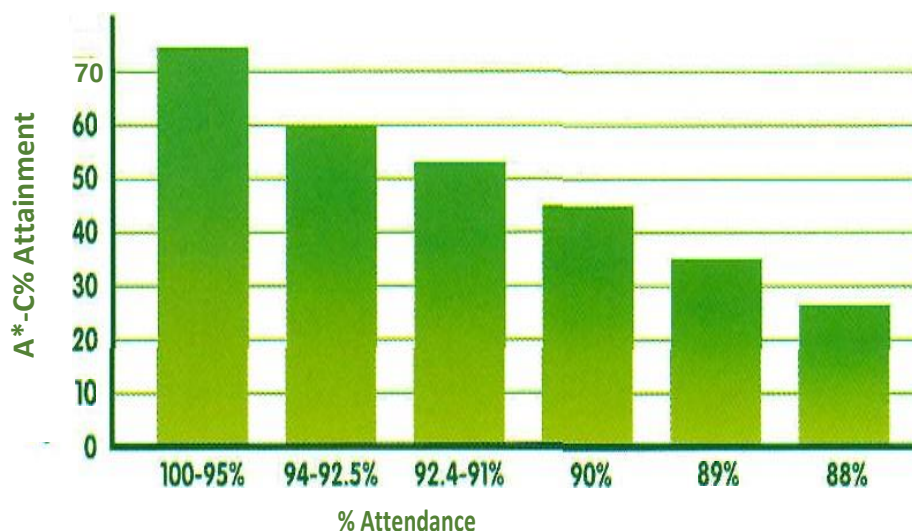
- 17 missed school days means that in secondary school they could drop a whole GCSE grade.
- 8 days absence = 96%
- 19 days absence = 90%

The table below shows estimated cumulative absent thresholds for both 15% and 10%; you can see how over the year the absence levels build over the school year.

	15%	10%
Half Term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
Half Term 2 (Autumn Term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half Term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half Term 1-4	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
(Autumn & Spring Term combined)		
Half Term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
Half Term 1-6 (Full Academic Year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions

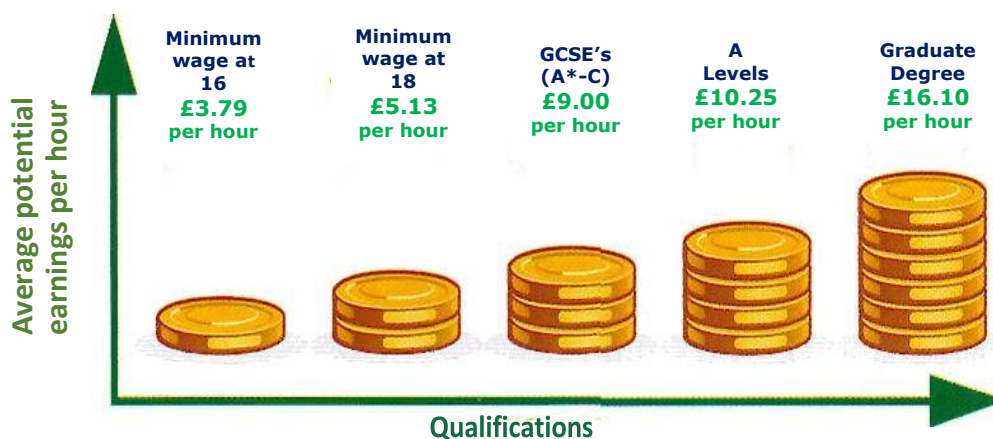
You may not think that attendance at primary school is important but it has an impact well beyond Blackwell School into secondary and even beyond! Research has shown poor attendance has a real impact on the number of GCSEs a pupil will achieve.

Have a look at the graph showing the chances of success at GCSE



And then longer term this will impact on their future salaries!

The more you learn, the more you can earn - what your potential earnings could look like:



Punctuality matters too!

Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving to the classroom when everyone else has settled. Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher, comprising everyone's education.

Minutes late per day	Equates to days of teaching lost in one year	Which means this number of lessons missed
5 minutes	3.5 days	17 lessons
10 minutes	7 days	35 lessons
15 minutes	10.5 days	52 lessons
20 minutes	14 days	70 lessons
30 minutes	21 days	104 lessons

Once your child has missed 10 school days (2 weeks) during a school year, they will not achieve a 95% school attendance rate for that year. Below is a table that you can use as a rough guide when considering your child's yearly school attendance rate.

Attendance rate	95%	90%	85%
Number of school weeks missed	2 weeks	4 weeks	6 weeks

As you can see from the table, a pupil with an 85% school attendance rate for the year will have missed nearly a whole school term. This level of school absence will definitely affect their ability to do well and achieve at school.

What happens at Blackwell School when a child's attendance drops?

If attendance drops, we will send home a letter to alert you. Please come in and talk to us if you are having difficulties - we want to support you. If attendance does not improve, you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss this.

We always want to help and explore all options, but can only do this when we fully understand a family's situation. We do take a consistent approach to attendance and make no apologies for this because, ultimately, we want the very best for your child. Once attendance drops below 90%, we do need medical evidence before we can authorise an absence.

Every school day counts!

"The effect that poor attendance at school can have on a child's education can be permanent and damaging. Children who attend school regularly are four times more likely to achieve five or more good GCSE's."

Schools' Minister, Nick Gibb



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**Building
Bright
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