

By allowing us the opportunity to address any concerns or difficulties, we can help put your mind at rest knowing that your child is ok and doing well at school.

It is important to us that your child has a positive experience at school, therefore as a parent you need to ensure your child attends school every day.

### [How many days is your child at school?](#)

Parents and sometimes children can feel they spend more time at school than they do at home.

There are **365 days** in the year and your child is in school **190 days** in a school year. So actual for **175 days** you have the opportunity to spend with your child, therefore if your child is absent for 10 school days, attendance will drop to **180 day** and continue to increase.

On average school children miss **3 days** schooling due to ill health meaning just an extra week off for a family holiday could make a critical difference to their learning. It is suggested primary school children who miss this length of time are 25% less likely to achieve a level 4/5 when joining secondary school, compared to those whose attendance is higher. This then having a knock on effect to their GCSE results. Research shows pupils with poor attendance struggle to catch up on core subjects and can be permanently trailing behind if they have missed small portions of the curriculum.

Starting good habits early in school life is easier than trying to change low attendance habits later on. So it is important that your child is organised the night before, get uniform, book bag, and PE kit ready. Give your children time in the morning to have a good breakfast, get ready in a calm manner and arrive for school in plenty of time to meet friends and have a chat/play. By doing these small steps your child's day will start off more positively.

School absence falls into one of two categories.

Un-authorized and Authorized. **This is highlighted on the request for absence form.**

Whilst as a parent/carer you may think you can give your child permission to be absent from school unfortunately you cannot. The only person that is able to give permission for your child to be absent from school is the Head teacher.

Our Attendance and Welfare officer can advise you on any questions you may have please contact the school.



# Wellington Primary Academy

## Good Attendance Guide



## Inspiring children to reach their full potential

Our behaviour and attitudes start to develop straight away, therefore it is important that positive habits begin in very early stages of our childhood.

It is fundamental that as a parent or primary caregiver, you encourage and show the importance of **attending school every day**. This will help your child to settle quickly; sustain friendships; reach their full academic potential and enjoy their school environment.

*Absences will only be authorised at the discretion of the Head teacher.*

*All Absence must be requested in advance with a leave of absence request form* these are available at reception.

### What is good attendance?

Ultimately 100% attendance is outstanding and a goal that each and every one of our children and parents should aspire to achieve.

**At Wellington Primary Academy the expectation for our children is to reach 97% by the end of the academic year.**

The National expectation is 95%.

Anything below this will start to become a concern to the Attendance and Welfare Officer.

*Wellington Primary is here to support you and your child we understand the difficulties some parents can have and we want your child to succeed. So please share any concerns with the Attendance and Welfare Officer, their main aim is to support families and pupils .*

### Facts

**If your child misses 3.5 days of school each half term over their school life they will miss a staggering 1.5 years of education.**

- ◆ Frequent absence will result in a large gap in their learning.
- ◆ Children are less likely to maintain age related learning expectations.
- ◆ Friendship bonds will be harder to maintain.
- ◆ Your child's self-esteem and confidence will start to decrease.

### How can you support your child?

At Wellington Primary it is important that we work together and communicate at all possible times. Therefore we would appreciate your support in the following ways:

- ◆ Telephone the school before 8.45 to let us know why your child is absent and when you expect them to return. **We ask that you provide a letter on return for our records**
- ◆ Keep communicating with us regularly if your child is likely to be absent for a long period of time.
- ◆ Think is your child's absence genuine , we understand that sometimes illnesses are due to worries.
- ◆ Ensure your child arrives in good time and ready to meet friends and chat and be prepared to start their day at 8.45am.
- ◆ Avoid booking non urgent appointments such as medical during school hours. **(if this is unavoidable arrange them for the latter part of the day so your child doesn't miss core subjects).**
- ◆ As a school we will always praise good attendance and punctuality.
- ◆ **REMEMBER** we are here to support you at all times.

However, if your child is consistently absent from school due to sickness we will ask for medical evidence or it will be marked as unauthorised. This does not mean we do not believe you or your child, but we endeavour to want the best for your child in school, providing additional support where necessary.

As a parent/carer you have a duty of care to help your child to attend school, you can do this by sending them to school every day and arriving 5 –10 minutes before the start of the school day gates open at 8.30am children line up and go into class at 8.45am. The extra 10-15 minutes help your child to settle quicker in class and a chance to catch up with friends.

Here at Wellington Primary we appreciate and enjoy working alongside our parents and children. You can help support your child by keeping their absence rates low. REMEMBER children with poor attendance often fall behind in the classroom and struggle keeping friendships, which may lead to them being unhappy in school.