

Osballdwick's Spotlight

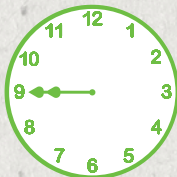
on Attendance and Persistent Absence

Attendance at Osballdwick

At Osballdwick Primary Academy, we believe that consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success. Every day in school counts! When your child is in school, they're not only learning key subjects like Maths and English, but they're also building friendships, developing social skills, and becoming part of our vibrant school community.

We understand that children get sick, and there will be times when they can't make it to school. However, we ask that you continue to prioritise getting your child to school on time and ready to learn whenever possible.

Understanding Our Attendance Tiers: To help everyone understand our school's attendance goals, here's a quick breakdown of what different attendance percentages mean. Our whole-school target is 97% attendance.



Why is school attendance so important?

Attending school **regularly** helps to build **confidence** and develop vital **life skills**



School is the **key** to **future success!**



Missing **2 days** of school each month = Missing nearly **3 weeks** during a school year



15 minutes late every day

= **two weeks** of learning lost each school year



Data shows pupils with more than **95% attendance** Achieve better GCSE results! **at least one grade higher!**



Even **90% attendance** is still 19 days of education lost in a school year



100% Attendance:

Fantastic!
We celebrate this excellent achievement.

99-97% Attendance:

Very Good.
This is a great level of attendance, showing strong commitment to your child's education..

96-95% Attendance:

Good.
This shows your child is consistently in school.

94-90% Attendance:

Worrying.
At this level, your child is missing almost a month of school over the year, which can have a significant impact on their learning.

Below 90% Attendance:

This is considered **Persistent Absence**

Persistent Absence: What It Means and How We Can Help

The Department for Education defines persistent absence as a student missing 10% or more of their possible school sessions. This means a child is absent for around 19 days or more over the school year.

If you are finding it difficult please see one of the attendance team. We are here to support and offer help: Mrs Bryan-Smith and Mrs Gargiulo.

When a child reaches this point, we become very concerned. Missing this much school can create significant gaps in their knowledge, making it harder for them to keep up with their peers. It can also impact their confidence and social development.

If your child's attendance is nearing or has fallen below 90%, please know that we are here to help. We want to work with you to understand the challenges you may be facing. Our dedicated attendance team can offer support in many ways, including:

- Creating an individual action plan to improve attendance.
- Referring you to outside support agencies if needed.
- Connecting you with resources that can help with any barriers to attendance.

We need to be informed every day that your child is absent even if you told us the day before.

By 8:30am

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office before 08:30 with full details of your child's illness/symptoms.

Please be clear about the reason for absence. Do not say unwell or ill as this can mean many things, if there is no specific reason it will be recorded as unauthorised.

If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. If we cannot make contact we will email, text and ring all of your contacts. We will also check with siblings in other schools.

By 10am

If there we do not know where your child is by 10.00am we will conduct a wellbeing call to the house to ensure everyone is safe.

How we monitor and report on your child's attendance: Parents are key partners in ensuring a child's successful attendance at school so we aim to let you know at regular points how your child is doing. We also have a legal duty to keep you informed.

Phone calls:



- Each week your child's class teacher will look at the whole classes attendance and identify any concerns.
- A member of staff will call you to discuss attendance concerns and look at ways to support improving your child's attendance.

Half termly letters and attendance meetings:

- Each half term we collate children whose attendance is between 95%-90% and those below 90%.
- You will receive a letter explaining our concerns and what we all need to do to improve attendance.
- The actions may involve an attendance meeting, involvement from Ebor Academy Trust or seeking advice from the City of York.

We monitor and track attendance daily, weekly, termly and across the whole year. We will inform you throughout the year what your child's rate is.

Missing school is like missing a chapter in a really good book!



Promoting and Celebrating Good Attendance

Our school attendance target is

97%



We promote and celebrate good attendance in several ways:

Weekly Updates:

Attendance figures and the three classes with the highest attendance are published on the hall attendance board.

Each classroom will also display its weekly attendance on the door.



Weekly Celebration:

When a child has 100% attendance for the week, they enter a raffle and prizes for each key stage are given out on a Monday in assembly.

The class with the highest attendance has an extra 10 minutes play time that week.

Termly Celebration:

End-of-Term Certificates and prizes are awarded to all students who have 100% attendance that term.

- Christmas
- Easter
- Summer



How You Can Support Good Attendance: Parents are key partners in ensuring a child's successful attendance at school.

Establish a Strong Routine:



- **Create a consistent schedule:** Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time, even on weekends. This helps children get enough sleep and makes the morning rush less stressful.
- **Prepare the night before:** Get backpacks, clothes, and any other items ready. This simple step saves a lot of time and reduces morning anxiety.
- **Make breakfast a priority:** A good breakfast gives your child the energy they need to focus and learn.

Prioritise School and Communicate its Importance

- **Talk about school positively:** Show your child that you value their education. Talk about what they learned, their friends, and their teachers. Avoid speaking negatively about the school.
- **Schedule appointments outside of school hours:** Whenever possible, book doctor or dentist appointments for after school or during school holidays.
- **Do not take holidays during term time:** This can cause significant disruption to a child's learning and is often not authorised by the school.

Be Proactive and Communicate with the School

- **Inform the school of absences immediately:** If your child is sick, call the school office on the first day of absence to explain why they are not in school.
- **Understand the rules:** Familiarise yourself with the school's attendance policy, including the difference between authorised and unauthorised absences.
- **Be honest about a child's health:** Only keep your child home if they are truly too unwell to attend. Minor ailments like a slight cough or runny nose usually don't require an absence.
- **Reach out for help early:** If your child is struggling with attendance for any reason (e.g., anxiety, bullying, academic difficulties), contact the school immediately. We are here to work with you and your child to find a solution.

Success in school starts with good attendance





Parent fines for missing school

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance do better at school and enjoy better wellbeing than those who don't.

If your child misses school without a good reason, schools can intervene.

The local authority have instructed that these new "penalty notice fines" will become effective from summer 2024. Your school, part of Ebor Academy Trust, will be required to follow these national guidelines.

Fines for parents per child

Penalty notice fines can be issued to parents for each child absent from school. For example, three siblings absent for term time leave, would result in the parent receiving three separate fines.

Five consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty notice fines can be issued for term time leave of five or more consecutive days. Inset training days are classed as school days and can be included in the five or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

Ten sessions of unauthorised absence in a ten-week period

Penalty notice fines will be considered when there have been ten sessions of unauthorised absence in a ten-week period.

First offence

A penalty notice fine could be issued, for term time leave or irregular attendance, and would be £160 per child paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 per child if paid within 21 days.

Second offence

The second time a penalty notice fine could be issued, within three years, for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be £160 per child paid within 28 days.

Third offence and any further offences

A penalty notice will not be issued for the third and any subsequent time an offence is committed, for term time leave or irregular attendance within three years – instead the case may be presented directly to a Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future Disclosure and Barring Service certificate, if one is applied for, categorised as "failure to safeguard a child's education."