

The True Numbers

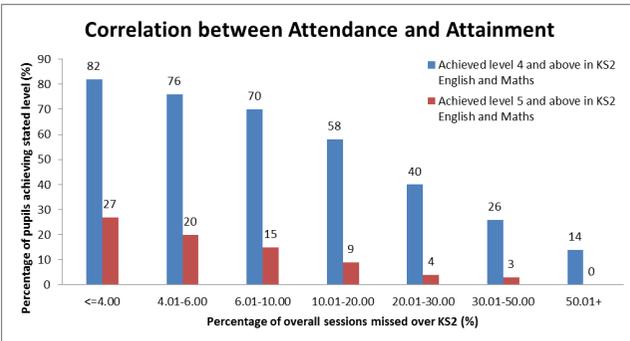
100% attendance is everyone's aim and it is something to be proud of when achieved!
100% attendance will only be achieved by attendance every single day of the school year

90% attendance means students were absent for the equivalent of half a day every week of the school year and this would mean a total of 4 weeks of missed school.

80% attendance means students were absent for the equivalent of 1 day every week.
This means students miss more than half a term every year or 2 full years missed over the course of their school career.

70% attendance means students were absent for the equivalent of 1-½ days every week and would miss more than a quarter of the school year.

If a student has an average attendance of 80% or less across their school career this adds up to them missing a whole 2 years from school – this is a shocking figure and is likely to have a really negative impact on student learning and achievement.



Being late for school reduces learning time.

If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss **three days** of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss **2 weeks** of learning each year.

What does the law say?

Parent Legal duty

As a parent/carer, you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school, on time, every day.

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must be registered in full-time education. Once your child is registered at a school you are responsible for making sure she/ he attends regularly. If your child fails to attend regularly - even if they miss school without you knowing - the Local Authority (LA) may take legal action against you.

The LA is responsible for making sure that parents/ carers fulfil their responsibilities.

Reasons such as family bereavement or taking part in an agreed religious observance would be acceptable for short absences. Unacceptable reasons for missing school include shopping, holidays and birthdays.

Our Greenside Vision

***At Greenside remember attendance for most of our students is good but we want to have the best record in London!
We want our students to attend every day, have fun, learn and celebrate their fantastic attendance and achievement.***



Greenside Primary School



Achievement & Attendance

Information & Guidelines for Parent/Carers

SEPTEMBER 2016

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Attendance Matters

At Greenside we aim for all our students to come to school every day, to be happy and healthy and to enjoy their learning so that they move to secondary school with excellent habits and are ready to be even more successful in the next stage of their education.

Every day counts

Students are expected to attend school every day and their attendance record matters.

As a school we monitor attendance carefully and support everyone to strive for 100% attendance. Attendance below 92% is a cause for concern and it is at this point that we start to meet with and monitor families more closely so that we can stop a 'dip' that can be difficult to change as students get older.

Regular school attendance and its impact

All parents/ carers want their children to be successful in life. It is even more important now, to have a good education behind you if you want opportunities in adult life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with schoolwork. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life—poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, a vital part of growing up.

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery on-wards, will also help your child later on.

Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class.

Some parents/ carers may be trying but finding it hard to get their children to attend school.

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable and are easily drawn into crime.

In primary schools less than 65% get good results in Maths and English in schools with an average of 15 days absence compared to around 90% in schools where the average is less than 8 days. Many parents/ carers are surprised how quickly their children accumulate 15 days absence.

What to do when your child is absent?

In all cases of absence parents/ carers should please:

- Only keep your child away from school if really necessary - we can send them home if they are really unwell and unable to manage their learning
- Telephone school: 0208-743-6421 on the first day of absence, as early as possible.
- Phone into school every day your child is absent for a valid reason
- Avoid medical appointments in school time, but if absolutely necessary, please bring your child to school for the rest of the school day.
- Hand a copy of a medical appointment or prescription to the school office

Unauthorised Absence

Only the school can authorise an absence. An explanation given by a parent/ carer is not, necessarily sufficient for the school to authorise an absence.

According to guidelines to schools from the Department of Education, an absence may only be authorised if the absence is due to:

- Student illness
- "Leave" given by the school (this commonly includes medical appointments, interviews and other similar special circumstances)
- The student being unable to attend due to unavoidable causes

Holidays during Term Time

It is less disruptive to a child's education if holidays are taken during school holiday periods.

Any holiday taken during term time will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

Monitoring and Accountability

If your daughter/ son's attendance dips to 92% or below we will be contacting you to discuss reasons for the absence. If attendance dips below 90% you will be expected to attend a meeting with a member of our staff to explain the absences and to set targets for improvement.

Punctuality

Whilst we are aware that most of our students arrive at school on time, there are often a couple of families who arrive very close to the bell or just after. Parents/ carers may not be aware of the difficulties experienced by their children, even if they are only a few minutes late each day.

A few important points:

- A student will miss the welcome and start to the school day when expectations are set and messages may be given out
- A student may miss her/ his Teacher's instructions for the first lesson.
- Coming late causes disruption to the whole class, as well as to the child who is late.
- Often Assembly has begun and students are unable to enter the Hall late
- Poor attendance results in poor attainment and future employment prospects are reduced
- Students are often very embarrassed and upset at coming into class late and it takes a while to 're-begin' the day in a positive way

Statistics to Remember

Attendance in London and England schools has been steadily improving in the last few years, but there were still more than 50 million days of school missed in 2012/2013. The evidence shows that children with poor attendance are less likely to succeed academically and they are more likely not to be in education, employment or training (NEET) when they leave school.

There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. Of students who miss more than 50 per cent of school only three per cent manage to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and Maths. 73 per cent of pupils who have over 95 per cent attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at A* to C grade. Evidence shows that students who miss significant amounts of their education in primary school are also more likely to truant later on.

September – start to the academic year

Please remember that if students do not return to school on the very 1st day of the academic year their attendance is likely to be below target and expectation for the whole year.

Similarly a holiday in term time will mean your daughter/ son will have a lower than expected attendance.