

# Attendance Matters!

*Missing school is....missing out!*



## WHY IS SCHOOL IMPORTANT?

Coming to school helps us learn and gives us a better future.

There are lots of different reasons why school is important. School helps us to improve our literacy and maths; it teaches us history, art and geography. It helps us to find things out, shows us what we are good at and how to improve. It builds our learning power and teaches us to succeed. A better education helps us to get a job.

We are constantly striving to get better in our attendance. To do so we need the help of our children, parents and carers.

Did you know that children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:-

- Fall behind in their school work.
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends.
- Be unhappy at school.
- Misbehave so others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult.
- Get into bad routines that can affect them getting or keeping a job later in life.



## HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

*Tips to improve your child's attendance*

- ✚ Make sure your child understands why school is important.
- ✚ Show your child that you are interested in what they have done at school.
- ✚ Get everything ready the night before school.
- ✚ Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays.
- ✚ Set your alarm and your child's alarm clocks. See who can beat the clock!

Achieving good attendance requires the school and home to work closely together. Therefore, we ask parents to:

- ✚ Ensure your child arrives to school on time; school gates open at 8:50am and afternoon registration is at 1.15pm.
- ✚ If your child arrives after 9.00am please report to school reception and sign your child in.
- ✚ If your child is ill, notify school before 10.00am on each day of absence.
- ✚ If your child should suffer from sickness or diarrhoea they must be kept off school until symptom free for 24 hours (sickness) or 48 hours (diarrhoea).
- ✚ If your child suffers a rash or infection please see our website under 'downloads' where there is a link to more information on rashes and skin infections.
- ✚ Breaks and sprains – children can still come to school. A risk assessment will be carried out to ensure your child is safe in school.



## FACTS AND FIGURES

In June 2016 our attendance rate is 96.35%.

Last year our attendance rate for the whole year was 96.8%.

**Children are required to attend school for 190 days each year. The LA average target for attendance in schools is at least 95%. We set an annual target of at least 96% for Unsworth.**

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS DAYS ABSENT	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH MEANS THIS NUMBER OF LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

How does your child's attendance compare with this target?  
Please remember that children who miss a lot of school achieve less.

### OFSTED INSPECTION DASHBOARD

Excellent attendance rates have always been a feature of our school. Each year Ofsted produce an 'Inspection Dashboard' for every school. Ofsted recognize that Unsworth has strengths in terms of attendance being above average: persistent absence (less than 90%) being below average and that no pupil group had low attendance compared to all schools nationally.



## WHAT'S ACCEPTABLE, WHATS NOT?



### Authorised Absences

We cannot legally authorise any leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. These are:

- ✚ a child is ill or receiving medical attention;
- ✚ days of religious observance, notified in advance;
- ✚ absence due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. bereavement, serious illness).

There are other absences, such as approved sporting activities that can be authorised.

Routine medical and dental appointments should be arranged out of school hours wherever possible.

### Unauthorised Absences

These are absences where:

- ✚ No telephone call/letter or acceptable explanation is provided by parent(s)/carers;
- ✚ The reason for the absence does not fall into one of the categories of authorised absence above;
- ✚ Arriving to school after 9.30am.

### Holidays

Family holidays will not be authorised during term time. Legislation does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. If you do take your child on holiday during term time this may result in a Penalty Notice Fine. Penalty Notice Fines for holidays in term time are £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days.



### Punctuality

*Regular attendance means punctual attendance*

Just being a few minutes late can leave children feeling anxious and unsettled for the first half of their school day which can be detrimental to their learning. We monitor latecomers and if your child has been late for 5 sessions or more we will send a letter home to bring it to your attention. If your child is late for 10 or more sessions you may be asked to a meeting with school and could also be issued with a fine.

### Attendance Officer

Our attendance figures are monitored on a regular basis by the school and our Attendance Officer, Mr Barlow from the Local Education Authority. At our fortnightly meetings, we look at attendance figures that have dipped below 90%. We are particularly concerned about individual pupils who are defined as 'persistently absent'. The government defines children whose attendance falls below 90% as 'persistent absentees'.

If your child does fall under this category we may ask you to make an appointment to come in and see us so we can discuss ways in which we can help to improve your child's attendance.

On some occasions the head teacher may request that the Attendance Officer visits you after 3 days or more of absence. We reserve the right to contact the Attendance Officer if we are concerned about a child's absence from school.