

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Above 99%	EXCELLENT	No action is required to improve school attendance.	<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> Children who rarely miss school are more likely to be successful in school and have better opportunities to meet their full potential.
95% - 99%	GOOD	The child / young person's school attendance may range from average to very good, with between 3 and 9 days of school missed over the year.  It would not be expected that any action would be required unless a pattern of absence began to emerge or the absence(s) were deemed to be inappropriate.	95% attendance could still mean up to 60 lessons missed during the school year.
90% - 94%	FAIR	The child / young person's school attendance is ranging from just below average to becoming low.  Whilst many students experience unavoidable absences the school should be aware of these students to ensure that all absences are appropriate.	A child / young person with 90% attendance at the end of the school year will have missed almost 4 weeks of school.  This could mean up to 120 hours of school lost over the academic year.
85% - 89%	OF CONCERN	A child / young person whose attendance falls below 90% is now starting to miss a lot of school. This would be a concern.  Conversations should be had with parents / carers about improving attendance and the school may inform the Education Welfare Officer attached to the school that concerns are emerging.  In some cases it may be appropriate for attendance plans to be agreed with parents / carers of children whose attendance is low.	85% attendance is almost 6 weeks or half a term of education missed over the year.  Children who experience low attendance are at serious risk of falling behind in their school work.
Below 85%	OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN	Children whose attendance falls below 85% are missing a substantial amount of school and this is a cause for significant concern.  The Education Welfare Officer will be aware of all children whose attendance scores under 85% and there should be a plan in place to improve the child / young person's school attendance. A referral to the Education Welfare Service may also be considered.	Missing more than half a term of education over the school year will seriously impact on a child / young persons' ability to meet their full potential.  Research shows that there is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement.

<b>LATENESS</b>	A child or young person who arrives late for school 10 or more times in any term will be considered as being persistently late. It would be appropriate for any child / young person who is persistently late to be on an attendance plan; a referral to the Education Welfare Service may also be considered.	Arriving on time for school is important as this is the 'settling in' period before the school day starts. This is also important time for socialisation within peer groups. Some children can develop anxiety by continuing to arrive late for school. Lateness also creates difficulties for teachers who may have to repeat part of the lesson. Lateness also causes disruption to other children.
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