

## Supporting your child



### A few tips to help support your child:

- Try to set a good example around routines;
- Make sure your child arrives to school on time;
- Have a consistent morning and evening routine. If you find this difficult contact your PSA;
- If your child is off school due to ill health contact the school on the first day of absence;
- Take an interest in your child's school day, ask them what was fun;
- If you suspect your child is unhappy at school contact the school or your PSA;
- If you have any concerns your school can offer support such as your child's teacher, school counsellor, school nurse, head of year, the school PSA. All of these people have a genuine interest in the welfare and education of your child—so make the most of them;
- If you are concerned about your child being bullied at school, speak to somebody. If you are unsure there are some great websites [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) and [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

## Your Parent Support Advisor



If you do have any concerns about your child's attendance or lateness at school, or feel you are unable to approach your school, then do not hesitate to contact your PSA, Linda Parry and Kate Wakeford.

Linda and Kate support families of The Wavell Cluster and Military Families in Rushmoor.

If you need to discuss your child's attendance please do get in touch. It is better to talk to someone regarding any worries, by talking and asking for help we can try to do something positive,

### The Wavell Cluster includes:

The Wavell Secondary School  
South Farnborough Junior School  
South Farnborough Infant School  
Talavera Infant School  
Talavera Junior School  
St Peter's CE Junior School  
North Farnborough Infant School  
Marlborough Infant School  
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School  
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School  
Rowhill Secondary School

You can contact Linda or Kate  
01252 785008

Email [linda.parry@wavell.hants.sch.uk](mailto:linda.parry@wavell.hants.sch.uk)

# School attendance



A simple guide as to why it is important your child attends school and how you can support your child in school.

# School attendance and your child

## The potential impact of days off

When children do not attend school regularly they find it more difficult to keep up with school work - in a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find extra time to help a child to catch up.

Children also miss out on the social side of school which can affect their ability to make and maintain friendships, a crucial part of growing up. Social exclusion can have very real and long-lasting effects.

Just 3 days off each half term equals over 3 weeks of missed learning each year. If your child's attendance is less than 90% every school year they will lose half a year of their primary or secondary education.

As mentioned earlier long-term poor attendance has a huge impact on the likelihood of your child passing their GCSEs with good grades. This can impact on their job prospects and earnings potential.

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/higher-gcse-grades-linked-to-lifetime-earnings-boost>**  
*'Those who perform just one GCSE grade better than their counterparts across nine subjects have been shown to earn on average over £200,000 more throughout their lives ... The Department for Education have established a direct link between GCSE attainment and an increase in lifetime earnings after tracking the earnings of more than two million people in England.'*

## Why does it matter?

Most parents and carers want their children to do well in school and to get on in life. Setting a good attendance pattern from an early age, even from nursery school, will help your child to accept and understand patterns of behaviour that will help them in later life.

Your child's attendance can affect their achievement in school both academically and socially. Poor attendance often leads to poor SAT results, poor GCSE results and less of an opportunity to progress to further education as well as reducing their chances of getting a job.

You might not be thinking of your child's future employment now but employers want to recruit people who are reliable and punctual.

If your child understands that reliability and punctuality are important now it is going to be a lot easier for them to cope in the 'adult world' when they leave school.

Employers want dependable employees. So children who have learnt a routine and have attended school regularly may have a better chance of getting a good job.



## Do you know?

Research has shown that children who are not in school are the most vulnerable and easily drawn into crime. Children who truant are more likely to offend than those that do not.

If you don't know where your child is, you can't hope to know what they are getting involved with instead of being at school.

## Holidays!

Children have 13 weeks annual holiday from school. As such, all parents/carers are expected wherever possible to plan and take their family holidays at this time so as not to disrupt their children's education. Education law states that parents **do not** have a right to take their child out of school for a holiday during term time. Only in exceptional circumstances may a Headteacher grant permission for leave and whether that is exceptional and how many days to approve.

**[www.hants.gov.uk/education](http://www.hants.gov.uk/education)**

## The Legal bit...

By law all children of compulsory school age (5-16 years) must get a suitable full-time education. It is **your** responsibility, as a parent, to make sure this happens. Once registered in school they must attend regularly. If your child fails to attend (even without you knowing) it is considered that you, the parent, are committing an offence. The School and Local Authority can take legal action against you which could result in a parenting contract, penalty notice or court fine. If the local Authority decides to prosecute you the fine can be up to £2,500 or imprisonment.