Attendance Matters

Abbey School

WAVE Post 16

Horizon Community College

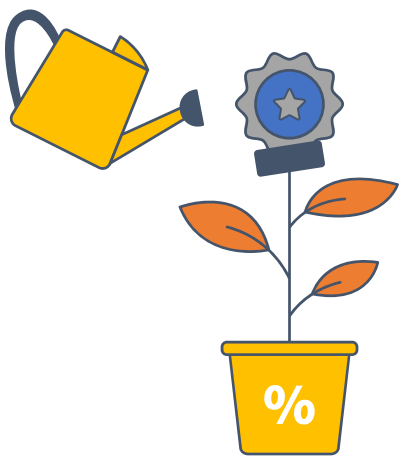
Our #TeamAbbey Family Guide 2026-27

#teamabbey High Ambitions for Good Attendance

We recognise the impact good attendance can have on your children and every day our attendance team works hard with our families to make a difference. We value the partnership we have with all our families to promote the positive benefits of school so that children's future life chances are fulfilled

In this updated booklet we look at the impact of attendance and what the New National Guidance Means for families.

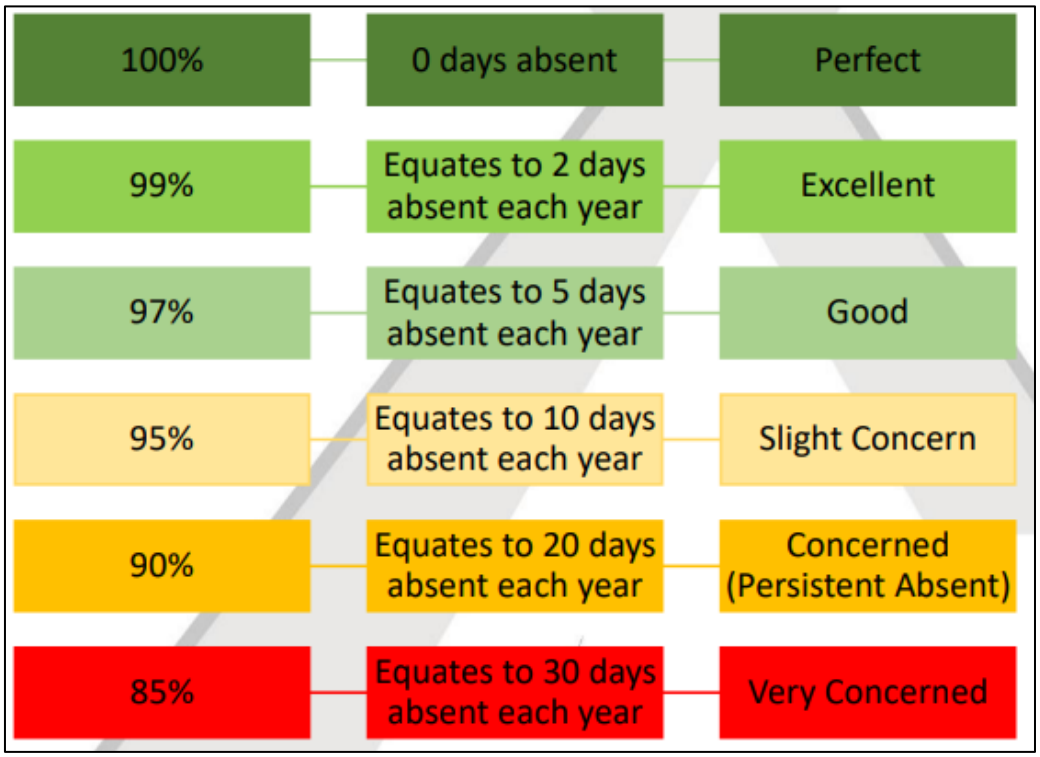




What does Attendance % mean?

The graphic below shows the impact of many school days a child has missed based on their attendance percentage at the end of the school year.

Every Day Counts



Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING	
5 minutes late each day	**3** days lost
10 minutes late each day	**6.5** days lost
15 minutes late each day	**10** days lost
20 minutes late each day	**13** days lost
30 minutes late each day	**19** days lost

(figures above are calculated over a school year)

National Guidance on Attendance

Whilst we recognise the importance and benefits to achieving good attendance, the barriers to accessing school can be varied and complex. From 1 September, there is new guidance that all schools must follow in order to secure good attendance for every child and includes working closely with families to identify the causes of low attendance and resolve to remove any barriers.

All Nexus MAT schools expect high attendance of their pupils and create a culture where children feel a sense of belonging and develop strong relationships. However we also closely monitor the attendance of all pupils and alert parents when concerns are raised so that they we can work together to improve your child's attendance. If your child misses school without a good reason, schools can intervene and each of the local authorities, within which the Nexus MAT schools are situated, have outlined new 'penalty notice fines' which will become effective from 1 September 2024.



What does this mean?

Penalty notice fines' which will become effective from 1 September 2024.

Penalty Notices

When parents have failed to ensure their child regularly attend the school where they are registered, a penalty notice can be issued to each parent who has allowed the absence.

Fines for parents per child - Penalty notices issued to parents are 'per child' for each child's absence from school. Therefore, if for example a family of three children, will be issued with three separate penalty notices.

Five Consecutive Days Absence - As well as absences for holidays, penalty notices can also be issued for unauthorised term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

Ten Sessions (5 Days) of unauthorised absence in a ten-week period If your child has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a ten-week period a day counts as 2 sessions then penalty notice fines will be considered to be issued by the school. The ten-week period can go across different terms or school years.

Per Parent Per Child

First Penalty Notice

The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days

Second Penalty Notice

A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 day

Third Penalty Notice and any further within 3 years

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time or subsequent times within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions

Good attendance can support your child in many ways. . ..

Feel a sense of belonging and being part of a community

Experiencing positive relationships are important for children so attending school each day can help them to make friends and form bonds with their peers and staff who support them, giving them purpose and feeling a sense of belonging. Having positive relationships can also help them to feel safe and cared for within the school and class community.



Stronger friendships and improved social networks

Children who attend school everyday are more secure within their social networks as they have been able to maintain positive bonds through seeing their friends every day. Spending time with their friends can help children to feel more included and help make strong connections with their peers



Improved Confidence and Self Belief

Confident children believe in themselves and build resilience when faced with new challenges; thus, reducing anxiety and uncertainty. Children who are more confident also have a greater motivation to stretch themselves and have more perseverance to achieve their life goals.



Increased Academic Outcomes

Attending school every day enables children to receive consistently any support that they require to make progress and achieve the best qualifications.



What will we do to help?

We monitor attendance daily and if we have any causes for concern, we will always contact you to discuss any problems that are occurring in which we can support you with. As a school, we will:

Ring you on the first day of your child's absence if we do not hear from you.

Conduct home visits if we have been unable to contact you as part of our safeguarding policy.

Inform you of your child's attendance at regular intervals such as at the end of every half term/term/school year.

Analyse attendance data on a regular basis to identify patterns of absence.

Hold attendance panel meetings in school for students with poor attendance.

Refer to Education Welfare Service or Early Help if no improvement after interventions.

Recognise children with good attendance and also those who are showing improvement as part of our school rewards system.

Reward parents whose children have good attendance through an end of year raffle to win a prize.

If your child becomes unwell in school we will contact you for medication or to collect your child and take them home.

What can YOU do to help?

There are a number of reasons why a child may need genuine time off school. There are circumstances that cannot be helped and we do understand this, however, to maintain a good level of attendance you can help minimise the amount of time a child is absent by following these useful tips.

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so that your child is ready and prepared for the day ahead.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside of school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness.
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work and friends.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Attend parents' evenings and school events.
- Always help school staff in their efforts to offering your child the best support.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with school staff – they are always there to help and be supportive.
- If you do not contact us regarding your child's absence. It will be classed as authorised and 10 authorised sessions could result in a fine and a referral to the SAMP pathway.

Who can I talk to?

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talking to us is the first step to resolving any issues.

Some things can be 'nipped in the bud' before they develop and the quicker we act the better the outcome. We are here to help you and will be happy to discuss any problems you may be experiencing and offer support and advice.

You can contact your child's teacher or class team by contacting school or alternatively, you can speak to our wellbeing team who can help you directly or put you in touch with external services that may be able to help.

You can call the school on 01709 740074.

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When Should I Keep My Child off School?

The information below gives guidance on when to keep your child off school due to illness. This can also be found on our school website under our attendance section.

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Rewards and Incentives

We're always working on our student rewards with the School Council. We want children to have their say too so we will be conducting a poll to see what kinds of prizes they would like to receive for good attendance.







Other categories will include:
Most improved attendance
Good effort attendance
Best class attendance
Best House attendance

We are very interested to hear your thoughts as you know your children more than anyone, get in touch by emailing us your attendance/rewards ideas on abbeyschool@nexusmat.org

Attend to achieve

abbeyschool@nexusmat.org – 01709 740074