

School Attendance Information for Parents/Carers

This guide has been created using materials from Cambridgeshire County Council and the DEMAT Trust-wide Attendance policy.



Don't let your child be the one to miss out!

The Law:

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16 years) must receive a suitable, full time education.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives an education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special needs.

Compulsory school age:

A child must start full-time education once they reach compulsory school age. This is on 31 December, 31 March or 31 August following their fifth birthday - whichever comes first.

- Receiving a good full-time education will give your child the best possible start in life and best possible outcomes
- Attending school regularly and punctually is essential for children to make the most of the opportunities.
- Government research suggests: 17 missed school days per year = 1 GCSE grade **DROP** in achievement.

Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

What can you do to help?

1. Establish good night and morning routines
2. Ensure your child arrives to school on time – this encourages habits of punctuality and lessens classroom disruption
3. Ensure all absences are reported to the school office for EACH day of absence – if you know or think that your child is having difficulties attending school, contact the school.
4. Always ask the school for help to support you and your child's attendance

Attendance during one school year.

Attendance during school year	Days missed	Weeks missed
100%	0	0
99%	2	2/5
98%	4	4/5
95%	10	2
90%	19	4
85%	29	6
80%	38	8
75%	48	10
70%	57	11.5
65%	67	15.5