

What does the school do?

- The school monitors attendance of all children regularly.
- If your child's attendance falls below an acceptable level, we will contact you to discuss the situation.
- If the absence continues, you will be invited to a meeting in school to discuss the reasons for your child's absence.
- Should there be no improvement in attendance, a referral will be made to the Education Social Worker so the absences can be further investigated.

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

**Why good school
attendance matters**

**Guidance for parents
and carers**

Why is good school attendance important?

In recent years, much research has been carried out on the effect that poor attendance has on children's progress at school and how well they achieve in later life.

90% attendance might sound quite good but it means that:

- Your child is absent from lessons for the equivalent of 1 half day every week.
- In one year, 4 whole weeks of lessons are missed.
- If over 5 years your child continues to attend for only 90% of the time, he/she will miss **half a school year** in total.

80% attendance means that:

- Your child is absent from lessons for the equivalent of 1 day every week.
- In one year, 8 whole weeks of lessons are missed.
- If over 5 years your child continues to attend for only 80% of the time, he/she will miss **one school year** in total.

Children who do not attend school regularly often also find:

- They are not able to keep up with their work.
- It is difficult in a busy school for teachers to find the time to help your child catch up.
- Children who arrive late miss important parts of the lesson and disrupt the learning of other children in class.

This is why we at St Mary's believe good attendance to be vital. By improving attendance rates, we can improve the standards that children achieve, providing them with better chances in life.

What you can do to help

- You should not expect the school to agree to your child being absent for a **holiday** during term time. This will only be agreed to in exceptional circumstances in accordance with national and county guidelines.
- Let us know if your child is absent from school. Please phone the office on the first day of absence 01258 820417 before 10:00am giving the reason why your child is away.
- If your child is absent for more than one day, please keep the school informed during your child's absence.
- Please do not take your child out of school for any other reasons such as shopping, birthday treats, looking after other members of the family etc.

