

How to Encourage Good Attendance

There are lots of reasons children can feel anxious about going to school. Understanding what they are anxious about is the first step to getting them the support they need at school.

- Spot their triggers - think of strategies that can support your child when they face things that make them resistant to school.
- Avoid arguing - look at the underlying issue and work towards the same goal.
- Prepare for school the night before to ease rushing in the morning.
- Arrange appointments, outings or holidays outside of term time.
- Be consistent with your approach. Make sure that you give your strategies time to work.

If you are facing difficulties getting your child into school, please let us know immediately so that we can work together to put a plan in place to deal with the underlying issues and get your child back in to school.

Further Support and Advice:



hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk
CAMHS



Kooth.com
Wellbeing

How to Report Absences

Please report all absences to us before school starts at 8:35am. If we have not heard from you by 9:30am, the attendance team will start to make contact, first via text message, then via email and phone calls. **This is because we have a duty of care for your child's safety.**

Methods to let us know of a **same-day absence** from school:

Arbor Parent Portal App

Email: attendance@jhanson.hants.sch.uk

Telephone: 01264 352546 Option 1

For any **extended or future absences** (such as medical appointments), please contact the attendance team via email or telephone as above.

Schools are only able to **authorise absence from school** in exceptional circumstances.

You will need to explain why the circumstances are exceptional by completing an exceptional circumstances form. This can be found on our website or requested via email.

When a pupil attends school everyday, it helps to establish good routines and habits for their later life.

Inspire. Care. Succeed



ATTENDANCE AT JOHN HANSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

www.jhanson.hants.sch.uk



Email: attendance@jhanson.hants.sch.uk

Tel: 01264 352546 Option 1



Why is School Attendance Important?

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly
- at least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence

John Hanson's 2024 GCSE results show 95%+ attendance led to 75.2% of students getting grade 4 or above in English and Maths.

For those with less than 90% attendance, this figure was 21.8%!

1

100%

OUTSTANDING

2

97%

GOOD: 5 school days missed in an academic year

3

96-93%

CAUSE FOR CONCERN: 7-13 school days missed in an academic year

4

92%

SERIOUS CONCERN: 15 school days missed in an academic year

5

BELOW 90%

PERSISTENT ABSENTEE: 19 or more school days missed in an academic year

Stricter Penalties for Unauthorised Absences

The 'Working Together to Improve Attendance' DfE guidance states: the threshold for fines or other legal action is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence (5 working days) in a rolling period of 10 school weeks.

- For **first** penalty notices issued; each parent/carer is charged at £80 per child, if paid within 21 days.
- After 21 days the amount each parent/carer, is charged doubles to £160 per parent, per child.
- A **second** penalty notice issued to the same parent is at a flat rate of £160.
- If penalty notices are left unpaid, these go to the Local Authority for prosecution.
- A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent/carer in respect of the same child within 3 years of the first penalty notice. These cases are handled by the Local Authority where it may be taken for prosecution.

If prosecuted, a magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

What Does the Law Say?

Parents and carers must ensure that their child attends school regularly. Failure to do so, without good reason, is an offence, even if they are missing school without your knowledge. Parents and carers of children with unauthorised absences may be subject to a fixed penalty notice/legal action.

Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is a parent/carers legal responsibility (section 7 of the 1996 Education Act) and permitting absence from school that is not authorised by the school creates an offence in law.

It is a legal requirement for schools to keep a record of attendance and the reasons for any absences. There are clear guidelines set out by the government about how schools should manage attendance and schools are expected to follow these.

Absence, for whatever reason disadvantages a child by creating gaps in their learning.
All attendance data is shared with the Local Authority and the Department for Education.

A pupil with 85% attendance is missing nearly half a term of learning time each school year.

