

Did you know?

When children attend school they:

- Can achieve their potential
- Have better career prospects
- Grow in confidence
- Make new friends
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Keep up with work and homework

Remember the impact of time off school:

Friendships move on,
even after a short
amount of time.

Work missed whilst on
holiday has to be caught up
and this could put extra
pressure on your child.

Even a short amount of time
out of school can result in
your child missing a
considerable amount of work.

Every day in school is
important, is taking your child
out of school in term time
giving the right message?

Time taken by teachers and
support staff to help your child
catch up is time they cannot
spend with other children.

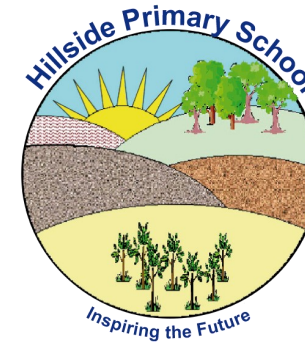
Who to contact:

If your child is genuinely ill then, of course, they will need to remain at home. Please contact the school office or leave a message on our 24-hour answer-phone service, before 9.00am with an absence reason (specific details are required, as 'unwell' is not sufficient), on:

0118 9755771 or admin@hillside.wokingham.sch.uk

If you are unsure as to whether your child can attend school, please contact your doctor or speak to the school office.

Absence calls must be made to the school **EACH** day that your child is absent. (unless they have a long-time condition which has been discussed with the school).



Attendance and punctuality

A guide for parents and carers

There are
365
days
in a calendar
year

175
days
are not spent
in school

What can we do to improve attendance?

Here are some tips to help your child achieve good attendance and punctuality:

- Have a regular bedtime.
- Record programmes to watch the next day.
- Give them their own alarm clock.
- Have them get their own bag and uniform ready the night before.
- Have a quiet time before bed, turn off the TV, computer and mobile phone.

Parents can help by:

- Keeping in touch with school about any absence. Communication is important.
- Making medical/dental appointments outside of school hours where possible.
- Taking an interest in school work.
- Supporting their child's efforts.

Why is good attendance important?

- It helps children learn and not lose the information given in a lesson.
- It helps pupils develop good learning habits.
- It helps pupils develop resilience and perseverance.

What is a 'PA' pupil?

The government has stated that if a pupil's attendance falls below 90%, they are deemed to be a 'Persistently Absent' pupil. You will be required to attend an Attendance Meeting if your child's absence falls below 90%.

Parental Responsibilities

If your child is between 5 and 18, you must make sure he/she attends school regularly. This is the law and you can be taken to court for breaking this law. (Section 444 of the Education Act 1996)

What is an authorised absence?

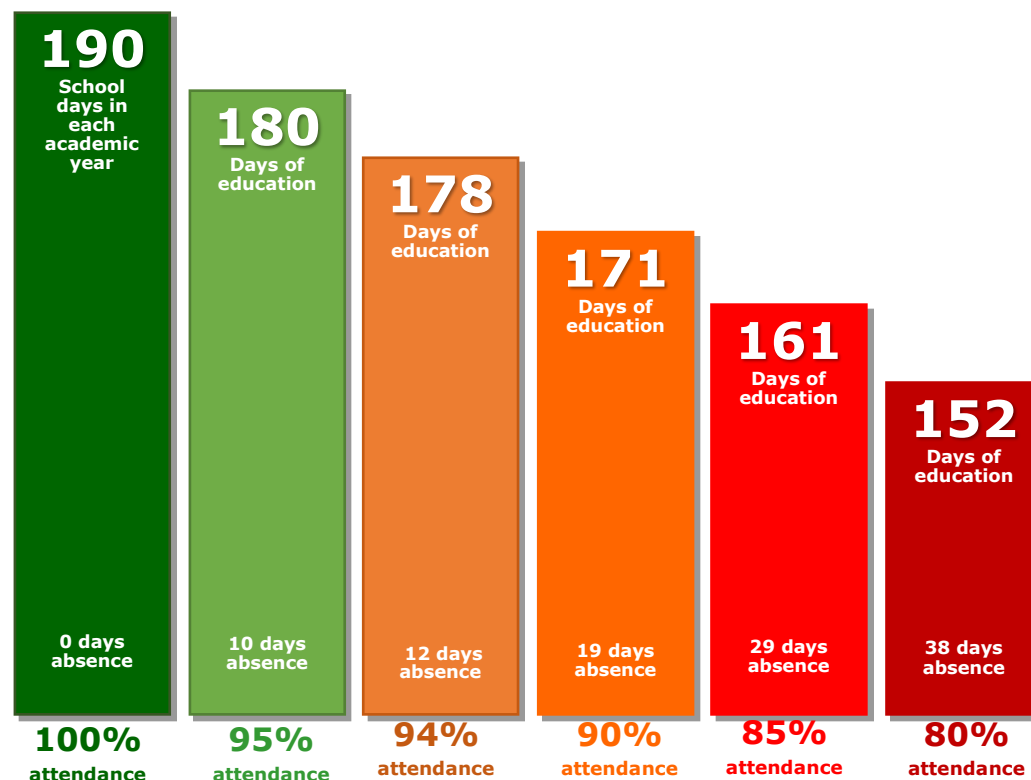
Parents and carers can explain an absence, but they cannot authorise it. Only the school can decide whether an explanation about an absence is acceptable and can be authorised. For persistence absence due to illness, the school will insist a doctor's note is provided. All other absence will be coded as unauthorised.

Unacceptable reasons for absence:

A cough, the Common Cold, Birthday treat, Tiredness, Meeting relatives, Sibling unwell, New baby, Mum/Dad unwell, Holidays, Not being able to bring your child to school. We do ask for more information other than just 'unwell'.

Good Attendance means...

being in school at least 95% of the time, or 180 to 190 days



WELL DONE

A good attendance gives you the best chance for success

CONCERNED

A poor attendance gives you less chance of success

SERIOUSLY WORRIED

Very poor attendance has a serious impact and reduces life chances