



Attendance & Punctuality

A guide for parents & carers

 www.wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

 01902 558222



What can I do to improve my child's attendance?

Here are some of the things that you can encourage your child to do to ensure that they achieve and maintain good attendance and punctuality:

- Have an evening and morning routine that allows a minimum of 8 hours sleep.
- Limit digital technology use - e.g. gaming, social media, apps etc. and finish at least one hour before bed.
- Allow enough time in the morning for your child to get ready, have breakfast and travel to school and arrive on time.
- Have their own alarm clock.
- Get a reliable friend to call for them in the morning.
- Get their equipment and bag ready the night before.
- Have a regular study time each evening.
- Not waiting for friends in the morning before school.
- Learn bus timetables in advance.

It will also help if parents/carers:

Take an interest
in schoolwork.

Work with and
support the
school.

Praise their
child's efforts.

Check and sign
their child's
school planner
regularly.

Why is good attendance important?

- To avoid gaps in learning.
- To help achieve good exam results.
- To help with getting to sixth form, college, an apprenticeship or university.
- To help get a good job.
- To prevent court action.

What is a 'Persistently Absent' (PA) Pupil?

You should not keep your child from school or allow them to be absent:

- Your child becomes a 'persistently absent' pupil when attendance falls below 90%.
- A PA pupil will be monitored by our Attendance Team

If your child's attendance is under 90%, we will not authorise any absence without medical evidence (e.g. prescriptions, stamped appointment cards).

- As a school, we monitor attendance very closely. If your child has more than 4 days absence they will be monitored by their Assistant Head of House.

What absences are not appropriate?

- To look after the house or other members of the family.
- To go shopping or to visit relatives.
- Because they are menstruating.
- Because they got up late.
- Because they don't want to come to school.
- For family birthdays or to go on family outings.

What about holiday?

The Department of Education has introduced amendments to holidays taken in term time. The Headteacher will not be able to grant any leave of absence during term time, for any purpose unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If you decide to take a holiday in term time and it has not been authorised by the school you will receive a fixed penalty, where the parent/carer will have to pay £80 for each child removed from school. This will need to be paid within 21 days and, if not paid within this time, the charge will rise to £160 per child, per parent and must be paid within 28 days to avoid potential prosecution.



What if absence is essential?

It is important to get a message to school - it is the responsibility of parents/carers to let the school know the reason for their child's absence as soon as possible, before 8:40am everyday that the pupil is absent.

Your child deserves a rigorous education and all the opportunities that Wednesfield Academy has to offer. Coming to school every day is essential for your child's academic and personal development.

What are parental/carer responsibilities

If your child is aged between 5 and 16, you must make sure he/she attends school regularly and stays in school. This is law. You can be taken to court for breaking this law (Section 444 of the Education Act 1996).

Parents should ensure their children arrive at school on time, properly dressed and in a condition to learn. This means pupils should wear school uniform. They must have their books, pens, pencils, PE kit etc, and not be too tired, worried or hungry. Parents must also make sure that pupils complete homework on time and keep to school rules about behaviour.

What is an authorised absence?

Parents and carers can explain absences but they cannot authorise them. Only the school can decide whether explanations about absences are acceptable and can be authorised. For persistent absence, the school will insist a doctor's note or medical evidence is provided. All other absences will be coded as 'O' and will not be authorised.

What about absence for dental/medical treatment?

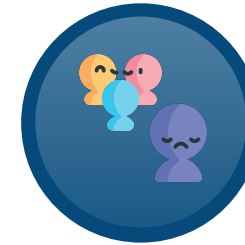
Your child may have to be absent from school for medical or dental treatment. The school must be informed if during school time, but where possible appointments should be arranged before/after school. Please ensure evidence is provided for a medical absence to be authorised. Absence will be unauthorised until the evidence is provided.

What happens if a pupil misses too much school?

If a pupil does not attend everyday, this is what can happen:



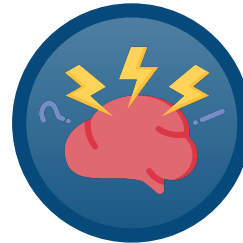
They will not know how to complete the work set.



They may feel left out and get left behind.



Friendship groups may change.



They become anxious.



They lose touch.

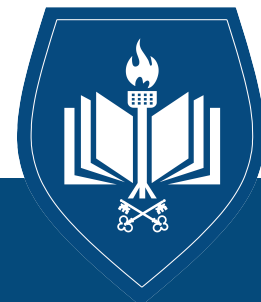


They will underachieve.

What rewards are there for excellent attendance and exemplary punctuality?

Regular attendance rewards are given throughout the year. Every half term Wednesfield Academy give out over £1000 in vouchers in a draw to pupils with excellent attendance.

At the end of every term all pupils with excellent attendance take part in a fun filled activity.



Remember

- Missed lessons = Missed opportunities.
- Being on time shows that pupils are reliable and organised, and know that school matters.
- Employers want good time keepers.

What happens if pupils are late?

- Your child will be at a disadvantage.
- They may miss important notices given in form time and interrupt lessons.
- Morning registration takes place at 8:30am. Therefore, the school gates close at 8:28am.
- Any pupils arriving onto school site after 8:28am will enter via Reception, be marked as late (L) and receive a 20-minute detention for breaktime the same day.
- If your child arrives after 9:00am, it is an unauthorised absence and will be coded as 'U' (arrived after registration closed). They will receive a 60 minute detention the following day.
- Pupils arriving after 10am, without evidence of attending an appointment, will be required to stay to catch up on the missed learning until 5pm on the same day.
- If your child's punctuality does not improve, further sanctions will be put in place.

Our expectations

- Pupils should be waiting outside their form rooms by 8:28am every morning.
- We expect pupils to arrive on time for ALL lessons.
- Pupils who fail to arrive to lessons on time will be monitored using a report card.

Attendance at external examinations

- All pupils must attend external exams on time as these dates are set by the examination boards and cannot be changed. If your child fails to attend an external exam, parents/carers will be charged the cost of the examination.

Attendance Team

Wednesfield Academy's Attendance Team or a member of the pastoral team may complete Safe and Well visits for pupils, where they attend the family home.

These visits can take place for a range of reasons e.g. the pupil is not in school and the parents/carers have not contacted the school to inform them of the reason.

This is a procedure that the school has to follow by law to ensure that all its pupils are safe.

Attendance for ONE term	In ONE term your child will have missed	In a YEAR your child will have missed
90%	1 week 2 days	4 weeks
80%	2 weeks 4 days	8 weeks
70%	4 weeks 1 day	12 weeks
60%	5 weeks 3 days	16 weeks
50%	7 weeks	20 weeks
40%	8 weeks 2 days	24 weeks
30%	9 weeks 1 day	28 weeks



What if I need further information?

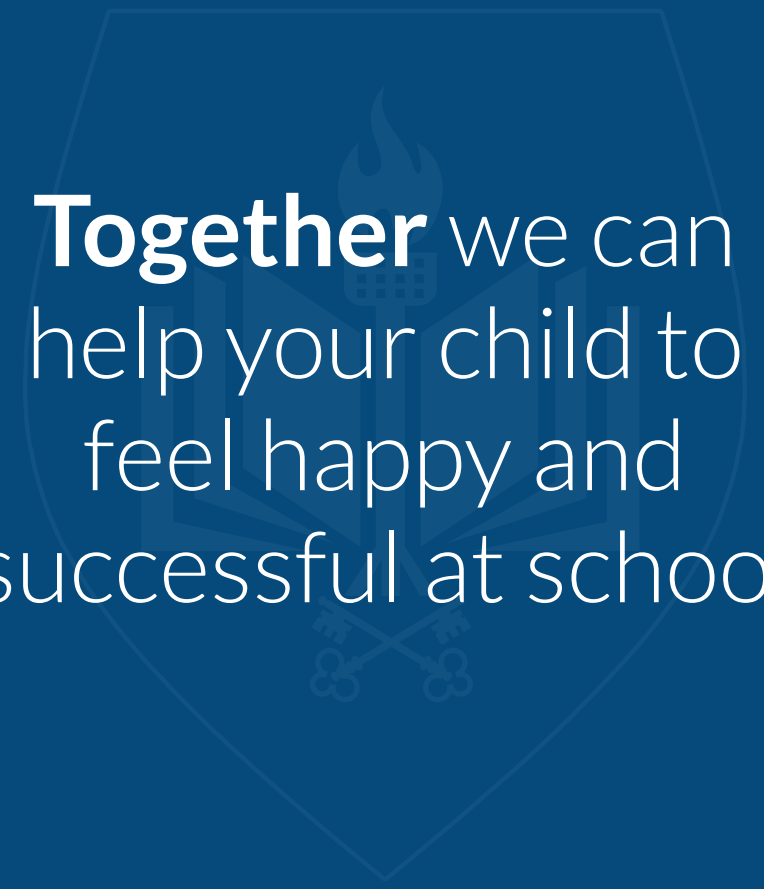
(Term Dates can be found on our website)

Wednesfield Academy - 01902 558222

Childline (24 hour helpline) - 800 11 11

Parentline - 0808 800 2222

West Midlands Travel - 0121 254 7272.



Together we can
help your child to
feel happy and
successful at school

