



# Chew Valley School

Learn

Grow

Achieve

## Attendance for Achievement

The greater the attendance the greater the achievement

I thought 90% attendance was quite good!

Actually, it really is not very good. 90% attendance is when the Government deems there to be persistent absence:

- 90% attendance means your child is missing  $\frac{1}{2}$  day a week
- Over 1 year that would mean missing 4 full weeks of school **more than 100 lessons!**
- Over their 5 years at Chew Valley, it would mean students were missing half a school year
- Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year means a GSCE drop in achievement

(Department For Education)

No employer would accept 90% attendance and we don't think it is good enough for students either. As evidence shows the negative impact poor attendance has on achievement, we set a minimum target for attendance for all students:

**100% = best chance of academic success**

What does this mean for me and my child?

We believe Attendance for Achievement. Our aim is for all students to aspire to 100%. However, we monitor all students and review attendance every week. If necessary, we will contact you to explain that we are concerned that your child's current attendance level is likely to have an impact on their achievement. We closely monitor all those attendance drops below 96%.

Good attendance is crucial to academic success

There is a clear link between good attendance at school and achievement in exams.

We also know from national data that good attendance goes a long way to guaranteeing success in exams and therefore improving life chances for all students.

With this evidence in mind our aim is to ensure that all students attend school regularly.

## What if my child's attendance falls below 90%?

We will contact you explaining that we will need to see attendance improve. If there is no improvement you will be invited into school to attend a meeting with the Head of year or Assistant Head of year where targets will be set for attendance to improve over an agreed period of time.

## What if my child's attendance does not improve in the agreed period of time?

You will be invited to another, more formal, meeting where the Assistant Headteacher will attend. This meeting will decide the next steps to take to ensure your child attends school regularly in order for them to be successful in their education.

## Will I get fined for my child's poor attendance?

If there is no improvement after all interventions, a Fixed Penalty Notice or a Court Hearing maybe recommended.

## Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are legally responsible for ensuring their children attend school regularly and on time. They can support their children by:

- Ensuring regular and early bed times to provide sufficient sleep
- Ensuring students set alarm times or give wake-up calls in plenty of time for students to have a healthy breakfast before school
- Encouraging students to have uniform and school equipment ready the night before
- Where possible, arranging routine medical appointments outside of school hours
- Reporting any concerns promptly to school and retaining open and honest communications with school
- **Being positive about education**

## Holidays during term time

There is no requirement in law for a school to authorize for term-time holidays. The Department for Education has recently amended the regulations governing requests for holidays in term time. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2013, amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 make clear that Headteachers are no longer allowed to grant requests for holidays during term time and may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The school is required by law to comply with this change to the regulations affecting all absence from school during term time after 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2013. Accordingly the school is now no longer able to authorise absence for term-time holidays. Our attendance policy from Sept 2013 has been amended to reflect this regulation.

For other useful information please go to the school website or contact our Attendance Administrator 01273 332272

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