

Attendance

It is well known that good school attendance affects a child's success in learning and helps to **fulfil their potential** and give a **chance of a better future**.

Everyday your child is absent from school is an opportunity missed. As a school and a parent / carer we have a **shared responsibility** to ensure that your child attends school regularly.

Punctuality

Burradon Community Primary School starts at **8.50am** every morning. It is **essential** that your child is in the school yard by 8.50am and lined up with the rest of the children from their class. Parents / carers of children who are persistently late could face legal action.

Absences from School

If your child is absent from school you need to:

- Contact the school on (0191) 6434680 before 10am.
- Please give the reason for absence.
- Please give the day you expect your child will return to school.

Phoning school to say your child is absent does not authorise the absence. As a school we need the specific reason for the absence so we can decide if is an authorised or unauthorised absence.

Traffic Light System

Burradon is working closely with the Education Welfare Team within the Local Authority. As a result we are sharing the local authority procedures for school attendance. These are based on a Traffic Light System.

Attendance at 96% or above = Green (safety zone)

The government standard for good attendance is 96% or above. Fantastic work if you are in the green.

Attendance between 90.1% and 95.9% = Amber (At risk zone)

This is considered to be the "at risk zone". If you are in the amber please be aware that your child's attendance is below the standard set by the government. As a school, we may ask you to enter into a parenting contract to support you in improving your child's attendance. We may also monitor your child's attendance over the period of 4 weeks. We may discuss your child's attendance with the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer. If you need support with your child's attendance, please contact the school.

Attendance below 90% = Red (Danger zone)

If your child's attendance falls below 90% your child's attendance will be referred through the Local Authority Fast Track system to the Education Welfare Officer. Your child's attendance will be closely monitored along with any absences. As a school we will ask you to enter a parenting contract. If there is no improvement in your child's attendance you will be prosecuted.

Please be aware that both authorised and unauthorised absences are included to find **your child's attendance percentage**.

Having 90% attendance means that your child is absent from school on average half a day a week.

Having 80% or lower attendance means that your child is missing on average at least one day of school every week.

Holidays

A week holiday taken during term time is over 50 lessons missed.

Since 2013, the Department of Education changed the legislation relating to holidays during term time. The new legislation **does not** give any entitlement to parents / carers to take their child on holiday during term time. All schools in the country are unable to authorise any holidays taken in term time unless they are under exceptional circumstances.

www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence

The Governors of Burradon Community Primary School have decided 5 or more unauthorised holiday absences will mean that parents / carers can be fined by the Local Authority.

If holidays can be taken out of term time, please take them out of term time.

How can I help my child get the best out of school?

Be aware of the impact of regular absences - missing school is missing out.

Make sure your child arrives at school on time.

Don't let your child stay off for reasons like going shopping, birthdays, feeling unwell, holidays with friends.

Avoid taking family holidays in term time.

Try to make non-urgent medical and dental appointments out of school time.

Be involved with your child's education and school - ask questions.

Build up good habits of punctuality and attendance.

Keep your child off school in accordance with infection control guidelines (contact the school if you are unsure) but send them back as soon as they are better, even if it's only for one day - every day counts.

Good attendance

At Burradon we like to acknowledge children that do well and follow the school rules. Good attendance and punctuality gives the children the chance to receive prizes and house points. We reward classes that have the best attendance for the week.

Why is good attendance important?

The law states all children aged 5-16 must receive a **suitable full time education**.

With **high attendance** your child gets the chance to **make friends** and learns to get on with others. **Communication skills** are vital for your child's development.

Research shows students with **less than 90%** attendance do dramatically **less well** in public examinations.

Employers will want to be sure that the people they recruit are reliable. Children who have a poor school attendance record have less chance of getting a job.

Young people who are off school for no good reason are **at risk of becoming victims of crime or abuse**. They may also be drawn into anti-social behaviour.

Children who don't come to school regularly will be **at risk of not achieving their full potential**.

Parents / carers of children with poor attendance can be prosecuted.

If you are facing any difficulty with your child's attendance or punctuality please don't hesitate to contact Miss Hunter (Headteacher) on 0191 6434680.



Burradon Community Primary School

Attendance Information for Parents and Carers