

## Ways for parents to encourage good attendance . . .

1. Find out about your child's absence regularly and check if this matches your own records.
2. Talk regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. They are more likely to attend school if they feel supported and their anxieties are listened to.
3. Phone the school as soon as possible to tell them why your child is absent and when you expect them to return.
4. Only grant days at home for **genuine** illnesses.
5. Avoid taking holidays in term time. These may result in a fine.
6. Know the routines of the school days to avoid issues e.g. Have they brought in their PE kit?
7. If you have concerns—phone the school.
8. Praise and reward good attendance at school.

**For further advice contact your school or Education Welfare Service.**

## 'Good School Attendance'

### What does it mean?

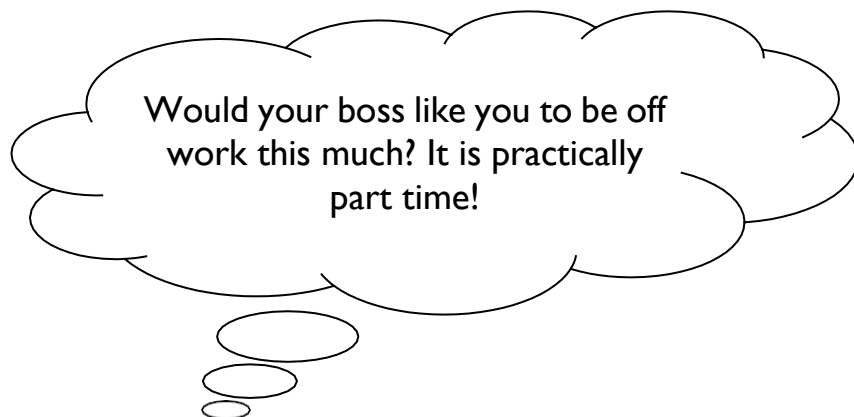


Raise your child's attendance.  
Raise their chances!

At St Catherine's, we value the importance of good attendance and recognise that pupils with good attendance achieve better at school. As such, we have set an ambitious target of **97% attendance this year**. This means all children need to be in school at least 97% of the time (a maximum of 6 days absence all year). Of course, some children will have unavoidably longer absences for medical reasons, so it is important that all children aim for 100% attendance wherever possible. The government expects no child to have attendance below 95% and any child with an attendance rate below 90% will be classed as '**persistently absent**'. This will trigger involvement of the Education Welfare Officer and can result in court action.

**At St Catherine's, we do not authorise any holidays during term time unless they meet the criteria on the exceptional circumstances list.**

**If your child attends school 90% in one school year it is the same as having a half day off every week.**



**Let's look a little closer. . . . .**

**1 school year at 90% attendance**

**= 4 whole weeks of lessons MISSED!!!**

**This is a BIG GAP in learning and lessens your child's life chances.**

### **Attendance over 1 school year. . . .**

Percentage	Weeks absent from school
96%....	1 week plus
95%....	2 weeks
90%....	4 weeks
85%....	5.5 weeks
80%....	7.5 weeks

### **Attendance over 5 school years. .**

Percentage	Weeks absent from school
96%....	5.5 weeks
95%....	9.5 weeks
90%....	19 weeks ( half a school year)
85%....	28.5 weeks
80%....	38 weeks ( one whole school year missed)