

**90% attendance might sound good but what it really means is....**

**Your child is absent from lessons for the equivalent of 1 half day every week**

**In one year, 4 weeks of lessons are missed.**

**If your child continues to attend for only 90% of the time over 5 years, he or she will miss half of a school year.**

If attendance is causing concern we will do everything we can to support families to see an improvement. However if this does not improve we will seek support from:

School Nurse

Early Intervention Team

Social Services

Every half term each child's attendance will be monitored and parents and carers will be informed of the percentage of their child's attendance.

The criteria of measuring attendance is as follows;

95%-100%-Excellent

90%-95%-Good

85-90%-Requires Improvement

Below 85%- Cause for concern

## *All you need to know about....Attendance!!!*

When your child is ill, getting the balance right between keeping them off and sending them to school can be difficult. If your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea your child **MUST** be kept off for **48 hours AFTER THE LAST EPISODE**. This is to ensure your child is fully recovered and to stop the risk of infection to others.

For other illnesses please make sure your child has eaten, slept well and is well enough to last a busy and demanding day at school.

The new government legislation made it clear that from September 2013, head teachers should not authorise any leave of absence during term time unless there were exceptional circumstances. It is clear that time out of school for a family holiday is not considered exceptional circumstances, nor are requests to spend time with visiting relatives or birthday celebrations.

Consequently, I have no option other than to record such absences as 'unauthorised'.

If your child is late for school then this can also affect your child's attendance.

If absence is due to excessive holidays then the Local Authority will be informed and a fixed penalty notice may be issued.

*Please try and organise all dental and doctors appointments outside of school hours as this can affect attendance,*

*On average children who have good attendance at school achieve better than those children who have poor attendance*

**'Does School Attendance matter'**

**by Jason Marsh**