

There is a clear link between attendance and attainment, your child is almost five times more likely to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grade 5-9 if he/she has minimal absences from school compared with pupils who have the poorest attendance rates.

Family holidays should be taken in school holidays. All term dates are on the school website.



Improving Attendance
High attendance leads to higher achievement



Advice for parents/carers

Smithills School has high expectations of every pupil. Attendance is a high priority within the school. Absence is monitored often, and parents may be visited or invited into school to discuss any issues.

School will always try to resolve any attendance issues with pupils and or their parent/carer. There are occasions when more intensive support is needed and referrals to other agencies may be made.

We will work hard to ensure that your child's attendance is the best it can be and that they are happy in school. We will work hard to improve future life chances of our Smithills Community. We ask for your support in ensuring your child attends school every day on time and prepared for school.

Reporting Absence and Further Information

Most young people do attend school every day and thrive in education, however there are occasions when absence is unavoidable.

You must report your child's absence every day and before 9:00 AM

- **Inform school by calling 01204 842382**
- **Inform using the Arbor App**

The Attendance Team can be contacted directly by emailing attendance@smithillsschool.net

The Attendance Team may conduct a home visit during your child's absence. This is a wellbeing visit, and is a supportive measure.

Please take time to read the following information as it may be useful should your child be absent from school in the future.

Penalty notices for unauthorised absence

A penalty warning may be issued to parents/carers if a child is absent from school for 5 days or 10 sessions and the absence is not authorised by school, if absence continues after the warning a fine may be issued. The fine is £80 for each parent/carer, if the fine remains unpaid after 21 days it increases to £160 per parent/carer. A fine that remains unpaid after 28 days will be referred to court for prosecution.

Arriving late to school

If a pupil arrives late after the register has closed at 9:15 AM this will be marked as an absence (unauthorised) in the register, and they will be treated as absent for the whole morning or afternoon session. A parent/carer may then also be fined as above.

Penalty fines for leave of absence during term time

Parents/carers may also receive a fine if they take a child out of school for leave of absence for 5 consecutive days or more during term-time. This is an instant fine of £80 which again increases to £160 if unpaid and will be referred to court if unpaid after 28 days. Fines will only be issued if school refuse to authorise a leave of absence.

Attendance support

At times, a child or family may need additional support to help improve attendance. When this happens, the school will invite parents and carers to a meeting to discuss the situation and, in some cases, may ask for an attendance contract to be signed. The pupil's attendance will then be monitored closely to track progress over time.

We may also offer support through school-based interventions or connect you with external agencies, depending on the needs of the child. We kindly ask for your cooperation and engagement in this process, as our goal is always to enhance the life opportunities and success of our pupils.