

I have received a letter from school stating that my child's attendance is low, what do I need to do about this?

What does the law say?

All children of compulsory school age (between the school term after their fifth birthday & the last Friday in June in the school year they turn 16) must receive a suitable education. Parents / Carers are legally obligated to ensure their child attends school regularly.

Additional information

- Good school attendance is defined as 95% or higher.
- A student with 90% attendance over an academic year, will have missed the equivalent of 19 school days & is classified as a persistent absentee.
- Recent research shows a direct link between attendance and academic success
- Research shows that less than 90% attendance, can result in at least a one-grade drop in every GCSE subject.
- Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school & therefore at all stages of improving attendance, schools should work in partnership with Parent / Carer to remove any barriers to attendance. Improving attendance is everyone's business.
- Consistent attendance helps students stay engaged & follow the flow of lessons, leading to better learning & progress.

Each school will outline their expectations on how to report your child absent, in their attendance policy.

- For any absences known in advance, such as medical appointments, schools & the Local Authority encourage Parent / Carer to make appointments outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, Parent / Carer should get the school's agreement in advance. The pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.

Key questions you may want to consider:

- If my child is absent and I forget to inform school of the reason, is this a safeguarding issue?
- My child struggles to come into school but I don't know why, can school help me to find out why?
- Are there patterns to my child's absence?
- My child struggles to come into school as they are extremely anxious, what can school do to help?
- My child has recently been very poorly resulting in them being in hospital. This has impacted their attendance, what can school do to help?
- My child says they are poorly on the days they have PE, can school help with this worry?
- I am worried that my child is being bullied, hence their reluctance to come attend, can school help?
- Can my child have a specific member of staff to approach to chat about their feelings regarding school?
- Is my child permitted to be absent for religious observances?
- Are there any other services that would be able to support my child further?

Key websites for further advice and guidance

- [School attendance | Peterborough City Council](#)
- [Peterborough Information Network | Peterborough City Council Education Attendance Service](#)
- [School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK](#)
- [Resources for families | Children's Commissioner for England](#)
- [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)
- [Peterborough Information Network | SEND Information Advice and Support Service \(SENDIASS\)](#)

For further information, please use the QR code to visit our Peterborough Virtual School website

