

## Illness, Attendance and Absence from School

Making an Informed Decision



A guide for parents and carers

*Why is it important for your child to attend school regularly?*

- ✓ It gives your child the best possible start to life
- ✓ They will be able to keep up with their learning
- ✓ They will have a better future employment
- ✓ They will be at less risk of becoming a victim of crime
- ✓ They will be less likely to become involved in anti-social behavior
- ✓ It is the law.

*Why is it important for your child to be punctual?*

Persistent lateness can be legally counted as unauthorised absence, which can...

- ✗ Cause disruption to the rest of the class
- ✗ Cause embarrassment to the child
- ✗ Make it harder for the child to settle as they may have missed vital instructions
- ✗ Being 15 minutes late each day during an entire school year is the same as missing two whole weeks of school

He/She is only missing just...	That equals.....	Which is....	And over 13 years of schooling that's.....
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	½ a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years

*Being punctual:*

- ✓ Shows your child is ready and willing to work
- ✓ Helps to develop a sense of responsibility
- ✓ Forms good habits



*If your child is away from school for any reason it will have an impact on their learning.*

*As a parent it is natural to want the best for your child and so you want to take care of them when they are ill.*

*However, we know that sometimes parents keep their children away from school when it is not strictly necessary to do so.*



“A check up - can it be made outside of school time.....

So make the appointment after school

*If every child achieved 100% attendance that would be fantastic. However, realistically we understand that genuine illness and exceptional circumstances can sometimes prevent school attendance.*

*There is no need to keep your child away from school if they have:*

Cold sores, Glandular Fever, Head Lice, Threadworms, Tonsillitis, Cold, Cough, Ringworm, Warts, Verrucae, Slapped Cheek.

*Make sure you get treatment for the conditions.*

*Keep your child at home with the following guidelines:*

Illness	Return to school
Sickness and diarrhoea	48 hours from the last bout of vomiting/diarrhoea.
Whooping cough	5 days from start of antibiotics.
Flu	Medically diagnosed
Chicken Pox	Until vesicles have crusted over
German Measles	4 days from onset of rash
Scabies	After 1st treatment
Impetigo	48 hours after antibiotics or until lesions are scabbed over.
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after starting antibiotics

### Breaking it Down:

If a student has 90% attendance. What does it look like?

M	M	T	T	W	W	T	T	F	F
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
/	\	/	\	○	\	/	\	/	\
/	\	/	\	/	\	/	\	/	\

90% attendance is the equivalent of being absent from school half a day **EVERY WEEK.**

### *The SHOCK Factor*

In one school year 90% equals FOUR WHOLE WEEKS of missed lessons. If the same student continues to attend only 90% of the year for the time they are at Eastry Primary School they will miss a total of 28 weeks. That is half a school year lost!

“The Government’s guideline is  
**100% ATTENDANCE”**

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD STAY OFF?



## *Attendance Percentage*

The school year is made up of 190 days

### **Aim for 100% attendance**

<b>100% Attendance</b>	=	<b>0 days off</b>
<b>95% Attendance</b>	=	<b>9 days off</b>
<b>90% Attendance</b>	=	<b>18 days off</b>
<b>85% Attendance</b>	=	<b>27 days off</b>
<b>80% Attendance</b>	=	<b>36 days off</b>

### *What is the Law?*

**Children of compulsory school age (5 to 16 years) must, by law receive a full time education.**

It is the compulsory responsibility of the Local Education Authority to ensure that this happens and it is the parent's responsibility to register their child with a school or make other suitable arrangements and inform the Local Authority.

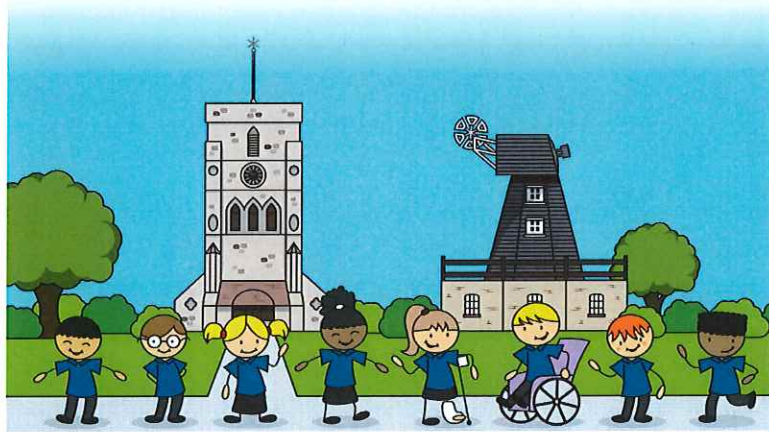
Each person with parental responsibility could be taken to court and fined up to £2,500, or sentenced to three months in prison, for each child who is not attending school regularly or who is persistently late.

**Remember** 3 days absence in a month due to illness would still mean your child may be counted as a persistent absentee.

If your child needs a medical appointment try and make it out of school hours.

If your child is ill and you are unsure whether they could be in school ring and talk it through with the staff.

Always notify the school each and every day your child is absent due to illness and follow through with a note explaining the reason for absence.



If we have reasons to believe your child is absent without a genuine reason, we could take action or discuss your child with the Local Authority.

If your child is not going to be in school, remember to call us on each day of absence on the phone number below:

**01304 611360**



Cooks Lea, Eastry, Kent, CT13 0LR

Tel: 01304 611360