

Every day counts...

Even if a child misses just one day of school, they can quickly fall behind. Catching up on even a small amount of lost school time can be extremely difficult, and it can contribute to anxiety about returning to school.

Having good, regular attendance often leads to a child doing well academically, forming better relationships with other children, and exhibiting good overall behaviour in school.

Good attendance is also not just about children achieving at school. Regular absences whilst a child is young can limit their future opportunities and establish bad habits that remain long into their working life.

By missing just one day of school a week, a child will stand to miss two years of school over the course of their school life!

Is my child too ill to attend school?

Occasionally pupils are too unwell to attend school. Schools will monitor and engage with parents as soon as a pattern of absence becomes apparent. When deciding whether your child is too ill to attend school ask yourself:

- Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home and consult your GP as appropriate. Please provide school with medical evidence wherever possible, so we can authorise absences.
- Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Please remember that early morning aches often pass, so don't keep your child at home 'just in case' when they could be learning in class.

Common Illnesses

Cold, sore throat, tummy ache, cough-

Please do not be afraid to send your child into school with Calpol or pain relief. This can be stored and administered in the office. If your child is feeling unwell in the day, we will ring you.

Sickness/diarrhoea- Please keep your child off school for 48 hours from last episode if your child has a viral sickness bug. **If the sickness/diarrhoea was not viral, it is okay for the child to return to school once they are feeling better.**

Chicken Pox- Keep your child off school until all vesicles have scabbed over.

Head lice- No need to keep your child off school. Please treat your child and send them into school.

Conjunctivitis- No need to keep child off.

Please refer to 'Guidance on infection control in schools' for more information.

Your responsibility:

As a parent, you have the legal responsibility to make sure your school-registered child attends.

You can help your child by:

- Ensuring they understand the importance of good attendance and getting to school on time.
- Taking an interest in their education. Ask them about their schoolwork, help with homework, and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- Listening to them when they tell you about problems at school. If there is anything serious, be sure to inform their teacher or the headteacher.
- Not letting them take time off school for minor ailments, particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work yourself.

- Arranging appointments and outings outside of school hours, at weekends, or during school holidays.

If it is unavoidable and your child needs to attend an appointment within school hours, please ensure they are brought into school prior to the appointment (if the appointment is in the afternoon) or after the appointment (if the appointment is in the morning).

If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to be in school, please do not hesitate to ring the school office who will be able to support you and provide you with advice.



A parent's guide to managing sickness absence from school

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*Proud to be part of
The White Horse Federation*

