



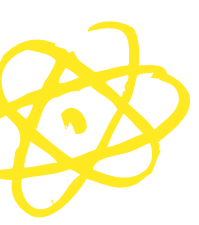
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# School attendance

Information for carers





## Introduction

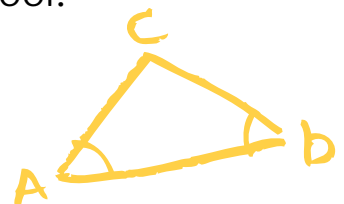
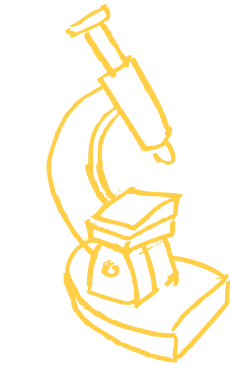
Good attendance at school is important to ensure that children and young people have the best life chances. Attendance is strongly linked to educational achievement and for children and young people to do as well as they can, they need to attend regularly and on time.

## Make every day count

Schools will be aware of poor attendance and are required to monitor what is called *persistent absenteeism*. A persistent absentee is a pupil whose attendance falls below 90%. This is taken very seriously as it means that a child is missing for more than 1 school day every 2 weeks.

School Attendance	School Attendance %	Time missed
Attending every day	100%	0 days
Attending 4½ days a week	90%	4 weeks missed each year
Attending 4 days a week	80%	More than half a term missed each year
Attending 3½ days a week	70%	More than a quarter of the school year missed

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to 2 years missed from school!





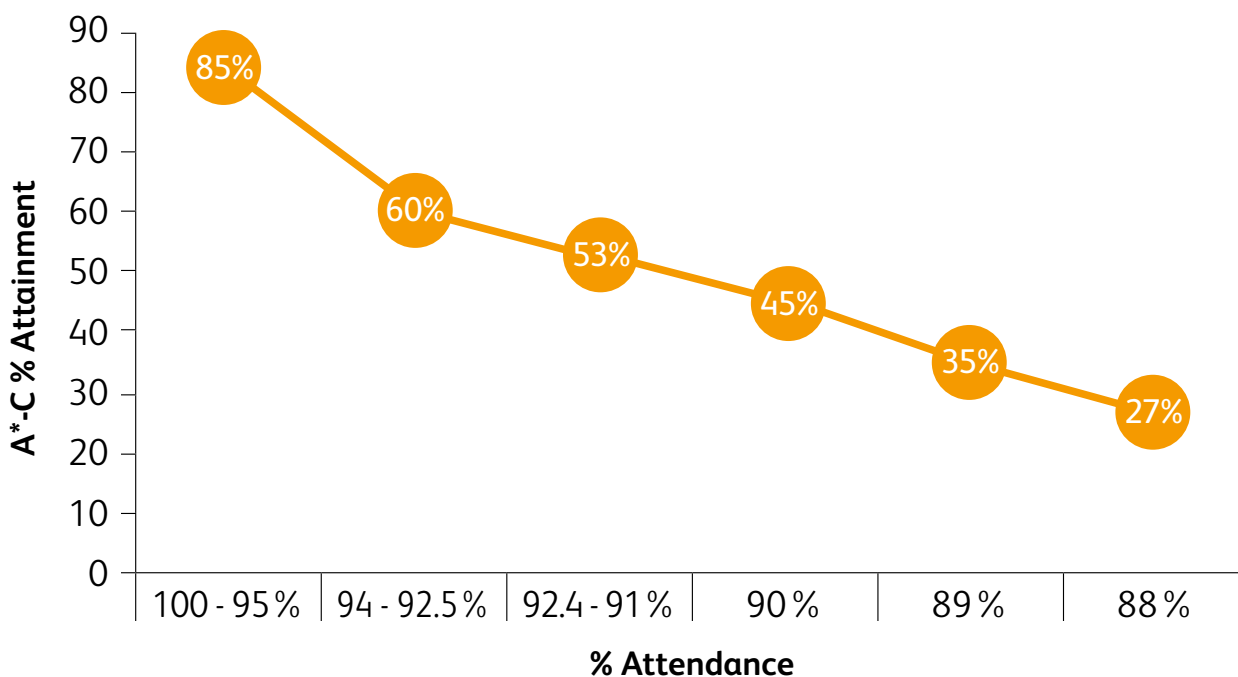
## Make every minute count

Being late for school reduces learning time. If a child or young person is 5 minutes late every day, they lose 3 days of learning each year. If they are 15 minutes late every day, they lose 2 weeks each year

The graph below shows that poor attendance is linked to lower achievement at GCSE.



**Chances of success at GCSE**



## When your child is absent

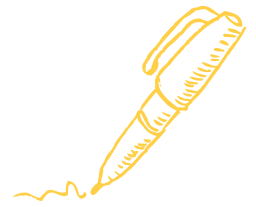
By law, schools must record absences and the reasons given.

Only the Head Teacher can officially authorise an absence. You should provide reasons for absences and the school must decide whether or not they justify authorisation according to government guidelines. Authorised absences include:

- Genuine illness of the child
- Hospital/dental appointment for the child
- Death of a near relative
- Religious observance



## Holidays in term time



You have to get permission from the Head Teacher, your child's social worker and the Virtual School Head if you want to take your child out of school during term time. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, permission should be sought in advance of the requested absence.

It is up to the Head Teacher to decide how many days your child can be away from school if leave is granted.

## How you can help improve your child's attendance and punctuality

- Make sure your child knows that you expect them to attend school every day and you will not allow them to be absent without good reason.
- Ensure that your child is at school on time. If your child's late arrival is reported to you, address the matter with them and take steps to resolve the lateness.
- Where possible, always make medical and dental appointments outside of school time.
- Be alert to any reason that your child does not want to attend school and report any concerns of bullying or problems at school as soon as possible.
- If you suspect that your child is missing school without your permission, you should contact the school as soon as possible.
- Follow the school procedures for reporting absence and always let the school know of any days your child cannot attend.



If you would like to discuss any issues about attendance, please email the Virtual School for Looked After Children at [virtualschoolteam@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschoolteam@hackney.gov.uk)

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

