

Parents/Carers can encourage good attendance by:

- Having a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Preparing for the morning routine by packing a bag the night before and setting out clothes
- Talking together about all the fun your child will have at nursery/school
- Arranging routine medical appointments, outings and holidays for the times your child does not attend nursery/school
- Talking to your child's teacher if there are any concerns of anxieties
- Working with your child to develop healthy hygiene practices.

If you are facing difficulties getting your child into school, it is important to discuss this with school at the earliest opportunity.

We are here to help.



Attendance in the Early Years



Good attendance is essential right from the start.

All parents/carers want the best for their children. Having a good education is important to ensure that children have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

Good habits must be formed right from the starts of their school life.

If we work together, we can ensure your child reaches their full potential.

Useful Contacts

Headteacher: Rebecca Starman

head@heartwood.norfolk.sch.uk

Attendance Officer: Denise Allen

finance@heartwood.norfolk.sch.uk

SENCo@ Marie Compton

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School Family Support Worker: Carrie Fisher

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Attendance Matters



Children learn and develop more from birth to five years than at any other time in their lives. Any gaps in their learning by the end of the Early Years, will on average, double by the end of their primary years.

Benefits of good attendance:

Good habits

It builds in young children the idea that getting up and going to school is simply what you do. Children who attend every day develop a feel for the rhythm of the week and gain a sense of security from regular routines.

Underachievement is often linked to lower attendance. For some older student this is linked to a steady deteriorating trend in attendance which is traceable right back to Reception. Establishing good habits early is the key to future success.

Secure relationships

Young children find it easier to build and sustain a range of social relationships when they regularly attend nursery/school.

Self-esteem

Children who rarely miss sessions at nursery/school and arrive on time are more likely to feel good about themselves. Children who regularly miss sessions, or are generally late, can frequently experience a sense of having to try a little bit harder just to understand what is going on and what other children are talking about or doing.

Learning and development

Children's learning develops quickly in the Early Years. For example, once phonics begins, children are learning a new phoneme (sound) every day, so any time not at school creates gaps in learning. The more abs there are, the harder is it for children to catch up to their peers. Good attendance ensures that children can develop at the right pace, gain confidence as they make progress, and ultimately enjoy school as they see themselves succeed.

One day absent = approximately 6 hours of learning lost

One week absent = approximately 30 hours of learning lost

11 days absent = 94% attendance and 66 hours of learning lost

19 days absent = 90% attendance, classed as Persistent Absentee and 114 hours of learning lost