

# Guide to Attendance at



## Attendance at Deeping St. James Community Primary School

Attendance is a priority in our school and is closely monitored. Good attendance and punctuality is essential for good academic achievement, good social development and good mental health. It ensures children are safe and supported.

Please refer to our Attendance Policy (available on our website) and The Department for Education publication: *Working together to improve school attendance* applied from September 2022.

Our school term dates are published on the school website.

**All absences must be reported to the school office: 01778 342314**

Requests for absence should be in writing to the Headteacher: enquiries@dsj.school

## Statistics

One day of missed school is equal to as many as 3 days of catch up for a child to learn all the missed knowledge and skills.

Persistent non-attenders (attendance score lower than 90%) on average score 15-20% lower on assessments than pupils who attend school more regularly.

The earlier a pupil begins to have attendance problems the greater the impact on achievement!



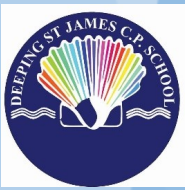
**Lessons start at 8:50am.  
Poor punctuality at school has a negative impact on learning.**

**5 minutes late each day = more than 3 days of school missed.**

**10 minutes late each day = almost 7 days of school missed.**

## How can parents help?

- Parents must model the value of education including the importance of regular education and good attendance.
- Arrange family trips, activities and holidays during the school holidays so that children miss as little school as possible.
- Schedule doctor and dental appointments in hours either prior to school or after school. If an appointment in school hours cannot be avoided, ensure your child is in school for as much of the day as possible.
- Establish good routines at home, including good sleep patterns.
- Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of missing school.
- **Contact the school if attendance is becoming a problem—we can work together to improve things.**
- Take an interest in your child's school work and be actively involved in school, Parents Evenings and events.



# Attendance

<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 100%</b> As well as being an excellent attender your child will almost certainly achieve the best outcomes for their ability and in later life. They will have real opportunity in further education or the world of work.</p>
<b>GOOD</b>	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 98% - 99%</b> Your child's attendance is good and they are likely to achieve their targets. This will give them the skills they need for the next phase of their education.</p>
<b>EXPECTED</b>	<p><b>Your child's attendance is as expected at 97%</b> and has reached the school's target which is set to ensure that learning is well supported. They have missed less than 6 days of school.</p>
<b>NEEDS TO IMPROVE</b>	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 93% - 96%. They have missed over 8 days of school.</b> Your child's attendance is in need of improvement. It is below the school target of 97%. Your child is missing learning and is in danger of falling behind.</p>
<b>POOR and CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN</b>	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 91%-92%. They have missed over 15 days (3 weeks) of school.</b> Your child's attendance is poor and causing concern. They are in danger of becoming persistently absent and are missing a significant amount of learning. You would have received a letter and asked to meet with us in school to support your child's attendance and missed learning. Your child is missing so much time from school that it will be difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons and learning.</p>
<b>VERY POOR and CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN</b>	<p><b>Your child's attendance is 90% or below and regarded as persistently absent as they have missed over 17 days of school. Over 5 years this is the same as missing half a school year.</b> This is very poor attendance and of great concern. There is a risk of Local Authority action eg. a Fixed Penalty Fine or further legal prosecution if your child's attendance does not improve. Your child is missing so much time from school that it will be exceptionally difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons and learning.</p>

**There are 190 school days in a year.  
This leaves 175 days for holidays and appointments.**

## Why is important to attend school every day?

- Research has proven that high levels of attendance improve academic performance.
- Pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Year 6 and in GCSEs have higher rates of attendance.
- At Year 6 pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had overall absence rate of 4.7% compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard.
- For GCSEs in English and maths those not achieving a grade over 4 had double the absence rate as those that achieved grade 9 to 4.
- Regular attendance encourages the development of social and emotional skills that are essential for life.
- Missing learning causes anxiety for absent children and missing playtimes inhibits the development of friendships.