

School Attendance and the Law

The Education Act of 1996 states that it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that all children between the ages of 5 and 16 years **attend school on a regular basis AND on time.**

Failure to do this may end up in YOU being taken to Court.

It is **your** responsibility to let the school know if your child is going to be absent.

BUT REMEMBER!

The ONLY legally acceptable reasons for non-attendance are:

- Illnesses & medical appointments
- Religious Day of Observance

Government guidelines say that Attendance should be at least **95%**

Holidays & Routine Appointments

Do not take your children out of school for holidays or routine appointments

Missing school adds up!

100% attendance	0 days of learning missed	Best chance of success!
95% attendance	2 weeks of learning missed	
90% attendance	4 weeks of learning missed	Poor attendance will impact on learning.
85% attendance	5 1/2 weeks of learning missed	
80% attendance	At least 7 1/2 weeks of learning missed	Very poor attendance. You are at risk of prosecution!

Did you know?

If your child's attendance is 80%, this means that he or she has missed:

- 1 day EVERY week
- 6 days EVERY half term
- 12 days EVERY term
- 36 days EVERY year
- 180 days in five years...

...that's nearly **ONE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR!**



LATENESS ADDS UP!

- Being 15 minutes late every day, will add up to TWO WEEKS of school missed every year!

We are here to help you!

If you are worried or feel there is a problem with your child's attendance it is always best to talk to the **SCHOOL** who can provide support.

HOWEVER...

The Education Welfare Service can help you with a variety of issues such as:

- Attendance Issues
- Bullying
- Family Support
- Accessing local services

If you want any help or advice about your child's attendance please contact:

Education Welfare Service

Email:
educationwelfare@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Telephone:
01267 246716

For Family Information Services:
fis.carmarthenshire.gov.uk