

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 or being issued with a Penalty Notice.

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!

LEARNING MISSED IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR

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

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!**

Worried about school attendance?

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.

The school can arrange a team around the family (TAF) meeting if you feel you need extra help and support.



LATENESS ADDS UP!

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

For information on local services contact the Family Information Service:

01267 246555

fis.carmarthenshire.gov.uk

