

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

At South Borough, we aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising being in school every day and never missing a learning opportunity. Our aim is to ensure that every child achieves at least 96% attendance. We believe that having this as a minimum expectation supports children to achieve their very best academically and socially. Any pupil whose attendance falls below 96% will be monitored very carefully by us and further action may be taken if it does not improve.



TIMINGS

Your child should be in school before 8:45am every day. Both gates are opened from 8:40am and children are able to enter their classrooms and begin early morning work from this time. Children arriving after 8:45am will be marked as late. Arriving at school late on a regular basis has a huge negative impact on a child's learning. If your child is late, an adult must accompany them to the school office to ensure their child is in school safely and explain the reason(s) for lateness.

ABSENCE/ILLNESS

If your child is absent from school we request that you call the office every day that they are not in school. Short term illness of no more than 3 days is usually authorised, if we are informed daily of the reason your child is unable to attend school. For any long term absences (more than 3 days) we will usually ask for medical evidence. If your child's level of attendance is very low, we may ask for medical evidence for every absence. Evidence can range from an appointment card from your surgery, a copy of a prescription or the empty medicine container with your child's name on it.



MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Medical appointments should be made outside of school hours, but where this is unavoidable, please do your best to bring your child into school for their registration mark prior to an appointment. Dropping into the office with your child will be fine. Following the appointment, please ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible. **All appointments during school hours will need evidencing or will be processed as an unauthorised absence.**

HOLIDAYS/LEAVE

In line with Government legislation, we do not authorise any requests for absence, including holidays. Parents who take their child on holidays during term time may be subject to a penalty notice.



If there are exceptional circumstances, these must be outlined clearly in writing to the Head of School. Please note though the following points from the school's attendance policy:

- Agreement to each request is at the discretion of the Head of School, whose decision is final.
- Each case will be judged on its merits.
- Leave cannot be authorised retrospectively

PENALTY NOTICES

We have many support services in place to help improve attendance, but we also follow the Government recommendations for persistent absence and unauthorised absences. If your child receives unauthorised absences, you may be issued with a Penalty Notice, in line with Government recommendations. The current fine is £60 per parent per child and rises to £120 per parent per child if not paid within 21 days.

We know we can rely on the support of all parents/carers to ensure that children are in school on time every day.

Remember – every learning minute counts!