

School attendance & your child

A Guide for Parents & Carers

What is Southfield Park's view on attendance?



We believe, and research shows, that children who attend school regularly are given the greatest opportunity to learn, develop their skills and to thrive.

Children who frequently miss school are less likely to achieve their full potential.

The more time a child spends around other children, whether in the classroom or as part of a school team or club, the more chance they have of making friends and feeling included, boosting social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

All of these skills contribute to ensuring every child is able to discover confidence, develop independence and build resilience so that each individual child realises their own unique value and can thrive both in our community and beyond.

Under the **Education Act of 1996**, 'the parent is responsible for making sure their child receives a full-time education. If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence.'

Failure to ensure a child receives their educational needs results in a series of fines and prosecutions for the parent.

Did you know?

Child with **NO** absence compared to child who has **less than 90% attendance**



1.3

times more likely to achieve age-related expectations or above



3.1

times more likely to achieve greater depth

Figures taken from DfE report March 2016

All Year Groups

Arrival from

8.35am

Register taken

8.50am

'LATE' if arriving
after

9.00am

'UNAUTHORISED
ABSENCE' if
arriving after

9.15am

So what time
do I need to
get my child
to school?

What difference
does arriving a
few minutes late
make to my
child?

Every Minute Counts!

to your child's
attendance at
Southfield Park

8:35am

Your child has arrived in time to settle well and has the best possible start to their day

8:50am

Your child has probably arrived just after most children but is still in time for the register

9:00am to
9:05am

Your child is late and has missed the beginning of the school day. Being late, can leave a child (of any age) feeling unsettled and can impact on their whole day

9:00am to
9:05am

5 minutes may not seem very long but the impact is **3 days lost a year**

9:05am to
9:10am

10 minutes late a day results in **6 days lost a year**

9:10am to
9:15am

15 minutes late a day equals **9 days lost a year**

We know children get sick and parents often ask 'what is too sick for school?' Here are a few guidelines to help you make a decision as often children can still come to school even if they are feeling a little under the weather.

Be assured, your child's welfare is our priority and if we think your child is too unwell for school we will call for you to collect them.

What's 'Too sick' for school?

Send me to school if



I have a runny nose or just a little cough



My throat's a little sore but I'm managing with some medicine to help me



My temperature is normal



I haven't been sick or had any diarrhoea in the last 48 hours

Keep me at home if



I have a high temperature that can't be reduced by taking medicine



I'm being sick or have diarrhoea or I have done in the last 48 hours

How can I help my child's attendance?

We understand that illness might not be the only reason for a child's absence. There are ways parents and school can work together to make sure your child can have good attendance - just come and speak to us!



Bring your child to school every day



Contact school on the first day your child is ill



Collect your child at the correct time and avoid early collections



Make medical appointments out of school hours



Take holidays during the school holidays



Contact a member of staff if such as our HSLW you are having problems getting your child to school

Does my child need to be absent from school?

It can be difficult to know if a particular illness means your child has to be absent from school. Below we list the most **common illnesses** your child may have and what to do using advice from the Public Health Agency.

My child is taking antibiotics

Make sure they have taken medication for 24 hours before returning to school



Sometimes your child may have a sore throat or slight temperature that is easily solved by taking some Calpol. Our school office is able to give your child Calpol during the school day to enable them to attend school.

MUST my child be kept off school?

Illness		How long for?
Chickenpox	YES!	Until new spots stop appearing and they have all crusted over
Hand, foot & mouth	NO!	Your child can come to school even if not all blisters have healed
Impetigo	YES!	Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics
Ringworm	NO!	Anti-fungal cream treatment can take place outside of school hours
Slapped Cheek	NO!	No longer infectious by the time the rash appears so can come to school if feeling well
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	YES!	48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
Influenza ('flu')	YES!	Until feeling better
Conjunctivitis	NO!	If your child's eyes are just sore and red but not weepy they can still come to school.
Head lice	NO!	Any live lice can be treated outside of school hours
Tonsilitis	NO!	Your child's glands can be swollen but still come to school if they otherwise feel well