

Attendance

A guide for Parents and carers



If you are a parent of, or are responsible for, a child who is registered at Chelmondiston C of E Primary School, this leaflet explains how you can best meet your responsibilities for making sure they attend school regularly.

Why is school attendance so important?

- ***Children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve good results and reach their full potential.***
- ***Attendance at school supports children's emotional and social health and development.***
- ***Good attendance will help you to give your child the best possible start in life.***
- ***Good attendance helps develop learning habits that will last into later life.***
- ***Good attendance increases opportunities for post 16 education and for positive references for future employers.***
- ***Children who have attended school regularly have a better chance of getting and keeping a good job.***

Research published on the Suffolk Council Website, shows the positive impact that good school attendance has on the academic achievement of pupils.

94% Attendance = Very good chance of achieving 5 A*-C grades.

93% Attendance = Good chance of achieving 5 A*-C grades.

92% Attendance = Fair chance of achieving 5 A*-C grades.

90% Attendance = Less than 50% chance of achieving 5 GCSE passes.

88% Attendance = Less than 35% of achieving 5 GCSE passes.

<88% Attendance = Less than 30% chance of achieving 5 GCSE passes.

Did you know?

All children have the right an education.

This is a basic human right under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights Equality and Human Rights Commission.

UNICEF states that 'Every child has the right to an education which develops their personality, talents and abilities to the full'.

Parents are responsible by law to ensure their children arrive on time and attend school regularly.

Parents with children of compulsory school age (5 to 16) have a legal duty to ensure their children receive suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise than at a school (this includes home education). If a child is registered at school, parents have the legal responsibility for ensuring that their child attends regularly. - Department for Education (2012)

Every school day counts towards your child's future. Days off school add up to lost learning.

In total there are 175 non-school days a year. This gives families the opportunity to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Go on days out
- Attend routine appointments

What research says about the potential effects of poor attendance

- Children who are frequently absent from school, without a good reason, are 12 times more likely to leave school without any qualification.
 - Young people who truant are three times more likely to break the law.
 - Children who do not attend school are more likely to be victims of crime or abuse.
- 90% attendance during all primary and secondary years is equal to a whole year of absence from education.

Leave of absence in term time

Term time leave of absence is not a right.

Many parents and carers think its okay to go on holiday during term, but this has a negative affect on your children's learning and ability to achieve. If your child goes on holiday during term time, they are absent.

- 10 days absence means your child will have 95% attendance in the year.
- 19 days absence means your child will have 90% attendance in the year.
- 29 days absence means your child will have 85% attendance in the year.
- 38 days absence means your child will have 80% attendance in the year.
- 47 days absence means your child will have 75% attendance in the year.

Children with over 90% attendance at school are more likely to gain 5 or more A-C GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

Children with less then 85% attendance at school are unlikely to gain 5 A-C GCSEs or any qualifications.

Authorised leave of absence is at the discretion of the Head Teacher and can only be authorised if the circumstances are exceptional.

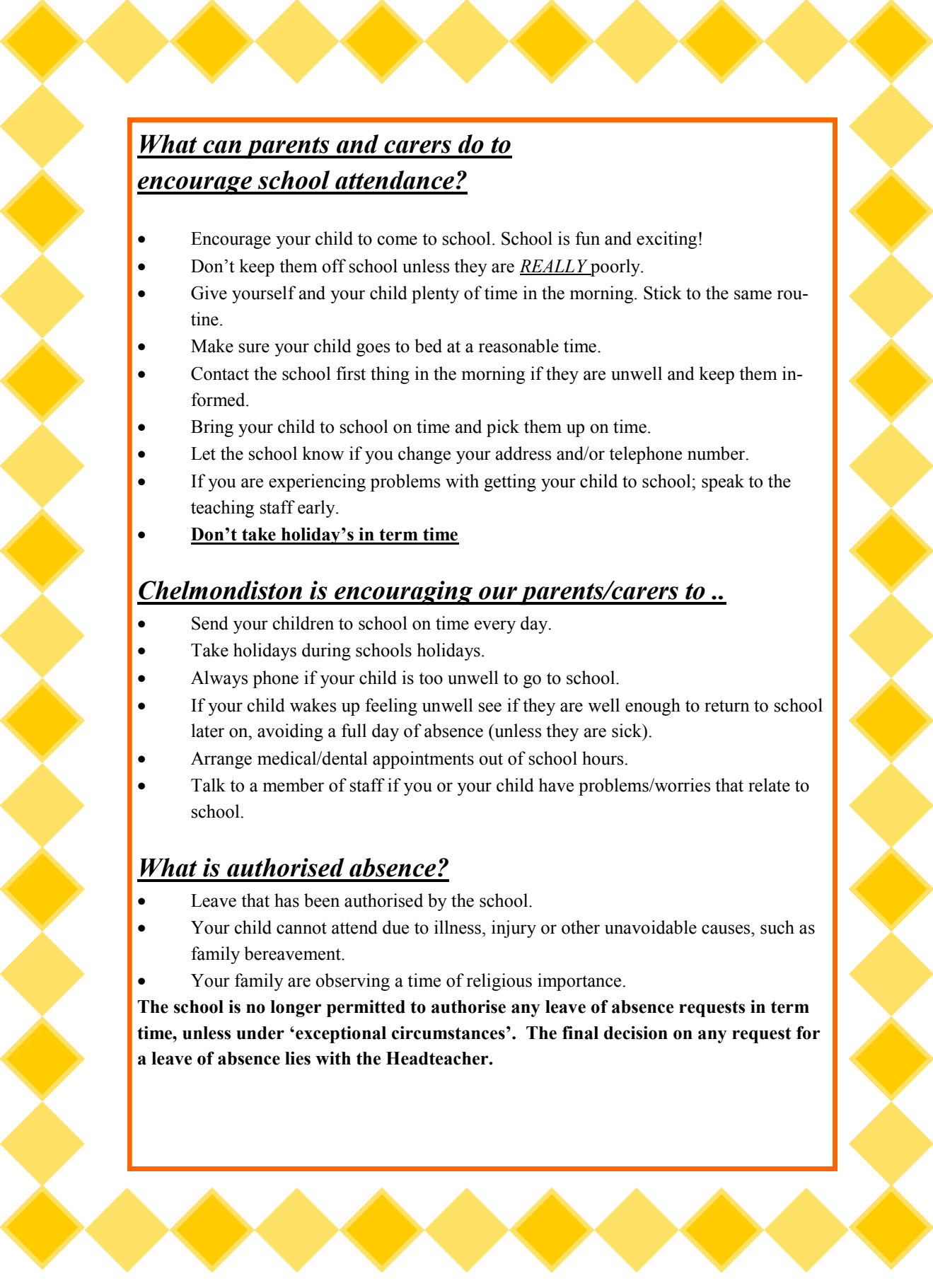
Poor Punctuality

If your child is frequently late for school it adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year

19 days lost a year through being late = 90% attendance

- If your child attends school they are more likely to get on in life.
- If your child regularly misses school, they are more likely to become involved in anti social behaviour.
- If a child misses just one day a week, over the course of their school career they will miss two years of schooling.



What can parents and carers do to encourage school attendance?

- Encourage your child to come to school. School is fun and exciting!
- Don't keep them off school unless they are *REALLY* poorly.
- Give yourself and your child plenty of time in the morning. Stick to the same routine.
- Make sure your child goes to bed at a reasonable time.
- Contact the school first thing in the morning if they are unwell and keep them informed.
- Bring your child to school on time and pick them up on time.
- Let the school know if you change your address and/or telephone number.
- If you are experiencing problems with getting your child to school; speak to the teaching staff early.
- **Don't take holiday's in term time**

Chelmondiston is encouraging our parents/carers to ..

- Send your children to school on time every day.
- Take holidays during schools holidays.
- Always phone if your child is too unwell to go to school.
- If your child wakes up feeling unwell see if they are well enough to return to school later on, avoiding a full day of absence (unless they are sick).
- Arrange medical/dental appointments out of school hours.
- Talk to a member of staff if you or your child have problems/worries that relate to school.

What is authorised absence?

- Leave that has been authorised by the school.
- Your child cannot attend due to illness, injury or other unavoidable causes, such as family bereavement.
- Your family are observing a time of religious importance.

The school is no longer permitted to authorise any leave of absence requests in term time, unless under 'exceptional circumstances'. The final decision on any request for a leave of absence lies with the Headteacher.