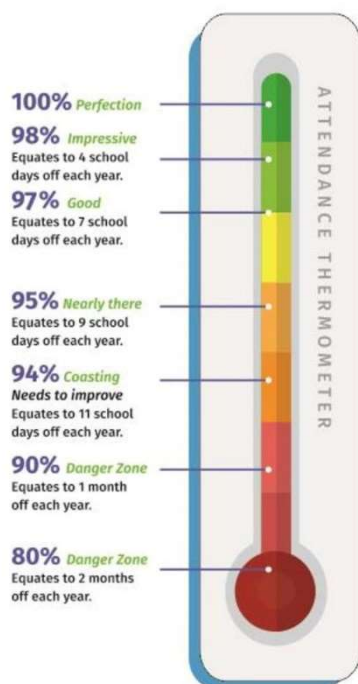




Attendance at Alderbury & West Grimstead School is very good.

The vast majority of pupils attend regularly and are punctual to all lessons.

How good is your Attendance?



What is good attendance - 90%? 80%?

If your child has **90%** attendance they will have the equivalent of:

- ⊗ ½ day off per week
- ⊗ 19 days off per year
- ⊗ 247 days off over their school career of 13 academic years – **This is equivalent to over 1 year of lost education.**

Research suggests that 17 missed school days each year results in a 1 GCSE grade drop in achievement (DfE).

This lost education can never be replaced.

What does the Law require?

Current Guidance from the Department for Education sets out expectations for schools, parents and pupils.

The DfE requires:

- Schools and local authorities to:
 - ⊗ Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence; This is defined as absent for 10% of the time ie a 90% attendance rate.
 - ⊗ Act early to address patterns of absence.
- Parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.

What about punctuality?

The school day begins at 8:55.

Being just 12 minutes late each day means:

- ⊗ Over 1 school week of 5 days, 1 hour of education is missed.
- ⊗ Over a whole month of 4 weeks, 4 hours are missed.
- ⊗ Over a six week half term, a whole 6 hours of learning are missed – **That's over a whole day of school.**
- ⊗ Over the whole school year of 39 weeks, **more than one week's worth of learning will be missed.**
- ⊗ Over the whole 13 years of their school life, they will miss 507 hours, which is 84 school days – that is more than 16 weeks of learning missed.

This lost education can never be replaced.

What can you do to increase your child's attendance?

- ✓ Talk regularly to your child about school and how they feel about it. They are more likely to attend if they feel supported and their anxieties are listened to.
- ✓ Talk to us to resolve issues. We will do all we can to help and support you and your child. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.
- ✓ Only grant days at home for genuine illness. You know if your child is really ill or not.
- ✓ Try to make medical appointments outside of the school day. If this is not possible, make sure that your child returns to school immediately after the appointment.
- ✓ Be particularly watchful and supportive in the run up to **tests**.
- ✓ **Help them catch up** with missed work, **a missed day does not mean missed work.**
- ✓ Remember **praise** for good attendance.

Please phone the school as soon as possible and before 9:00, to tell us why your child is absent and when you expect them to return. Putting the school number in your phone can save you time.