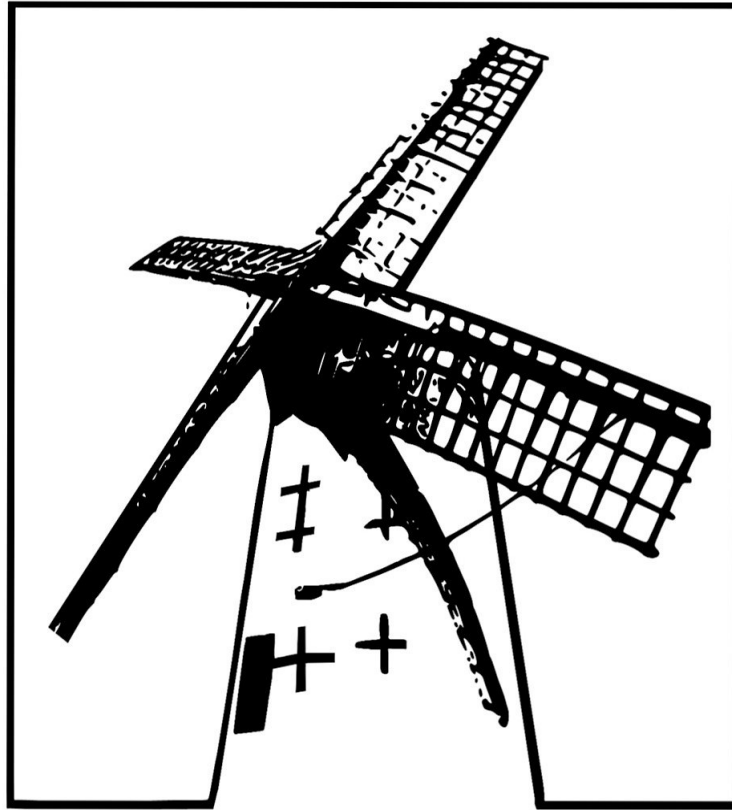


Bidston Avenue Primary School



'Achieving Together'

Attendance Matters

Information for Parents Booklet

It's cool to be in school.

Updated Sept. 2023

Introduction

At Bidston Avenue Primary School, we believe that every child has a right to a good education. To achieve this we need to work with you and your child by, first, ensuring that your child attends school. Without your child in school we can not fulfil the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or National Curriculum.

We are required, by law, to record the attendance of every child on roll and to show who is absent or late. Figures for attendance and for authorised absence and unauthorised absence have to be sent to Wirral Borough Council (Local Authority) and the Department for Education (UK Government).

At Bidston Avenue Primary School, registration times are 8:45am for F2, and year 1. It is also 8:45am for years 2 to 6. The Year F2, Year 1 & 2 door closes at 8:50am.

After lunchtime the register is taken again for the afternoon session at 1:00pm (infants) and 1:15pm (Y2 & juniors).

Poor attendance (and punctuality) not only impacts on a child's progress and achievement but also on their self-esteem and well-being. The habit of being a regular, punctual attender at school will stand your child in good stead for the future, particularly in the world of work.

Absence from School

Regular attendance (over 97%) is a parental responsibility. If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please contact the school before 9:30am by telephone or email. If your child is absent and we have not been informed then we will contact you (the parent or carer) via text or phone to ensure that the child is safe.

Whenever possible, please make non-urgent dental and medical appointments after the school day or in holidays.

Punctuality

It is better to be late than not to arrive at all. However, when children arrive late it can make things difficult for everyone. The teacher has to stop and ensure a newcomer is up-to-speed and settle them in, therefore the rest of the class is disrupted. The late-coming child misses the first part of the lesson and will miss out on important learning. Children also feel uncomfortable and embarrassed by being late.

Holidays

The Headteacher may only give permission for holidays during term time in extremely exceptional circumstances. Any requests must be made in writing to the Headteacher on the appropriate form. We also know when parents lie to school about 'absences', particularly when families appear with a tan after a two weeks illness with chicken pox. This would be an unauthorised absence and may incur a fine of £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days & £120 per parent per child if paid between 22 & 28 days. Parents who fail to pay Fixed Penalty Notices may be prosecuted in court.



Reluctance to go to School

If your child feels anxious about coming to school, please let us know so we can help. Take any worries your child has seriously but try not to make them worse by seeming worried about them yourself. Take the line "We will sort this out because everyone has to go to school".

Don't give in and let your child stay at home. It is always better to send them in and have a quiet word with the teacher, parent support adviser or with our office staff. Try to talk about school in a positive way by asking questions like "What was good about school today?" Be sympathetic but firm about going to school. Speak to a member of staff any time you are concerned about your child.

You can still be prosecuted for non-attendance of your child.

Attendance Information

School year = 190 days plus 5 days Teacher Training Days.

Minimum expected attendance is 97%.

Any child with attendance below 90% is classed as persistently absent.

The table below helps to illustrate the impact of poor attendance.

<i>Percentage Attendance</i>	<i>Number of school days missed</i>	<i>Average number of lessons missed</i>
95%	1 week & 4.5 days	58
90%	3 weeks & 4 days	76
85%	5 weeks & 3.5 days	114
80%	7 weeks & 3 days (Over 1/2 a term)	152
75%	9 weeks & 2.5 days	190
70%	11 weeks & 2 days (One term missed!)	228