

Wirral Attendance Service
Wirral Council
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to All parents/carers of children at Wirral Schools date September 2025

your ref
my ref /
service
tel
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email

Please ask for Please speak to your child's school in the first instance

Dear Parents and Carers

Let's Work Together to Support School Attendance

We all want the best for our children—and being in school every day plays a big part in helping them succeed. The Department for Education has updated its guidance on school attendance, and it's now a legal requirement for all schools and local authorities to follow. But just as importantly, it's a shared responsibility between schools, families, and the council.

We know that life can sometimes get in the way, and we're here to help. Below are some simple ways you can support your child's attendance:

- **Make sure your child attends school every day** unless there's a valid reason (like illness).
- **Let the school know as soon as possible** if your child can't attend unexpectedly.
- **Only request time off in exceptional circumstances** and always speak to the school in advance.
- **Try to book medical appointments outside school hours.** If that's not possible, please inform the school ahead of time.
- **Talk to your child's school or the council** if there are any challenges affecting attendance—we want to understand and support you.
- **Make use of helpful resources**, like Family Toolbox for family support or Zillo for young people.

Changes to Penalty Notices

The government has also made changes to how fines work when children miss school without permission:

- The fine is now **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid between days 22–28**.
- If a parent receives a second fine within three years, it will automatically be **£160**.
- A third offence within three years will lead to **court action instead of a fine**.
- Fines are issued **per parent, per child**.

Already this academic year, over **5,500 school sessions have been missed due to unauthorised term-time leave**. These changes aim to reduce that and help children stay on track.

You can read more about these changes here:

👉 Fines for parents – What you need to know

[Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

👉 Statutory Guidance – Working Together to Improve Attendance

[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Why Attendance Matters

Research shows that children who attend school regularly do better:

- In **Year 6**, pupils with 95–100% attendance were **1.3 times more likely** to meet expected standards in reading, writing, and maths.
- In **Year 11**, pupils with 95–100% attendance were:
 - **1.9 times more likely** to get a Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE than those with 90–95% attendance.
 - **3 times more likely** than those with 85–90% attendance.

Missing just **10 days in Year 11** can cut the chances of achieving a Grade 5 in half.

Together, we can make sure every child gets the best chance to succeed and enjoy a bright future. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child—and all children across Wirral—make the most of their education.

Warm regards,



Interim Assistant Director - Education