

Attendance at Aston Rowant CofE Primary School

At Aston Rowant CofE Primary School, we believe that **good attendance is essential for learning, wellbeing and positive behaviour**. Being in school every day helps children build routines, feel secure, develop friendships and make the most of the learning opportunities we provide.

Our approach to attendance is rooted in our Christian vision of helping every child to live life **in all its fullness**, and in our commitment to inclusion, care and high expectations for all.

Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is a key part of positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. When children attend school consistently and on time, they are better able to:

- engage fully with learning
- build strong relationships with adults and peers
- develop confidence, resilience and positive routines

We work towards **high levels of attendance for all pupils** and promote attendance as a shared responsibility between school, families and pupils.

Our Approach to Attendance

We take a **positive, proactive and supportive approach** to attendance. This means:

- setting clear expectations that children should attend school every day, unless they are genuinely unwell
- promoting attendance through praise, celebration and regular communication
- identifying attendance concerns early and working with families to address barriers
- ensuring pupils returning from absence are welcomed back positively and supported to catch up

Attendance is treated as a **behaviour for learning** and as an important part of pupils' overall wellbeing.

Attendance and Safeguarding

Attendance is also a **safeguarding priority**. If a child is absent and we have not been informed, we will contact parents or carers on the first day to ensure the child is safe. Unexplained or prolonged absence is followed up promptly and may involve further support or referral to external agencies if required.

Our priority is always the safety and welfare of our pupils.

Supporting Pupils and Families

We recognise that attendance difficulties can sometimes be linked to:

- anxiety or emotional wellbeing
- medical needs
- SEND
- family circumstances

Where this is the case, we work closely with families to provide **tailored, compassionate support**, while maintaining clear expectations about the importance of regular attendance. This may include individual action plans, pastoral support or involvement from other services where appropriate.

Statutory measures are only considered **as a last resort**, when support has not led to improvement and attendance remains a serious concern.

Persistent Absence

A pupil is classed as a **persistent absentee** if they miss 10% or more of the school year. Pupils at risk of persistent absence are prioritised for support and closely monitored. We work with families to understand the reasons for absence and to help pupils re-engage positively with school life.

Working in Partnership with Parents

We value strong partnerships with parents and carers. Families can support good attendance by:

- ensuring children attend school every day and arrive on time
- informing the school promptly if their child is absent

- arranging appointments outside school hours wherever possible
- working with us if attendance becomes a concern

Together, we can help every child benefit fully from their education.

In Summary

- Attendance supports **learning, behaviour and wellbeing**
- We have **high expectations**, balanced with care and inclusion
- Early support prevents problems from escalating
- Attendance is everyone's responsibility

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the school — we are always here to help.

Attendance – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is good attendance so important?

Regular attendance helps children make consistent progress, build routines, feel secure and develop positive attitudes to learning. Missing school can affect not only academic progress but also confidence, friendships and wellbeing.

When should I keep my child off school?

Children should attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. If your child is too ill to attend, please inform the school by telephone before 9am on the first day of absence.

What should I do if my child is absent?

Parents and carers must inform the school on the first day of absence and continue to do so each day unless a return date has been agreed. Written confirmation of the reason for absence should be provided within two weeks.

What happens if the school is not informed of an absence?

If we are not informed of an absence, we will contact parents or carers on the first day to ensure the child is safe. This is part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

What is persistent absence?

A pupil is classed as a **persistent absentee** if they miss **10% or more of the school year**, for any reason. Pupils at risk of persistent absence are prioritised for support.

How does the school support children with attendance difficulties?

We understand that attendance difficulties can be linked to anxiety, medical needs, SEND or family circumstances. We work closely with families to understand barriers and put supportive strategies in place, such as action plans, pastoral support or involvement from other services if needed.

Are holidays allowed during term time?

Holidays during term time are not permitted and will be recorded as unauthorised absence. In very exceptional circumstances, parents may apply in writing to the Headteacher at least 14 days in advance for consideration.

What happens if attendance does not improve?

Our priority is always to work in partnership with families and offer support. If attendance remains a serious concern despite this, the school may involve the Attendance and Engagement Service. Statutory measures are only considered as a last resort.

How are children supported when they return after absence?

Children are welcomed back positively and supported to catch up on missed learning. We focus on reintegration so that pupils feel confident, included and ready to re-engage.

Who can I talk to if I am worried about my child's attendance?

If you have any concerns about attendance, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the school office. We are always happy to work with families to help children attend regularly and feel supported.