

### Please help your child to arrive at school on time

Regular lateness quickly adds up, is disruptive to teaching and learning and can seriously disadvantage your child.

| Minutes late per day over a school year | Number of days learning lost |
|---|------------------------------|
| 5 minutes                               | 3.4 days                     |
| 10 minutes                              | 6.9 days                     |
| 15 minutes                              | 10.3 days                    |
| 20 minutes                              | 13.8 days                    |
| 30 minutes                              | 20.7 days or 4 weeks         |

### What does the law say?

By law, all children of compulsory school age must get a suitable full-time education. Once your child is registered at a school, you are responsible for making sure he or she attends. The Local Authority may take legal action against you.

The school has to report any poor attendance to the Education Welfare Officer and Local Authority. As a parent you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school.

### Attendance at Defford-cum-Besford CE First School

Children with low attendance are placed at a significant disadvantage. As a school we want to do all that we can to support children and families to maximise their school attendance. **Every day counts.**

We see really clear patterns between pupil's attendance and the progress with their learning. **Children who attend make far better progress than those who regularly miss school.**

### What can parents do to help?

#### Illness

If your child is saying they do not feel well and you are unsure, please send them to school. If they are really ill, we will ring you.

To help you decide whether to send them into school consider:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to others?

#### Medical appointments

Please ensure wherever possible they are arranged outside of school hours.

If they are during the school day please ensure children come in before them and return to school after them.

#### Holidays

Please think very carefully before booking to take your child out of school during term time. Leave in term time will only be agreed where the Headteacher feels there are exceptional circumstances.



Defford-cum-Besford  
Church of England  
First School  
Attendance information

**Please remember...**

A pupil is considered a "**Persistent Absentee**" when they miss **10% or more** of schooling across the school year for **whatever reason** they are absent.

We expect regular attendance because we want the very best for the children.

**How can you help?**

- Aim for 10 hours sleep a night for your child. This makes the following day easier for them to cope with and to get the most out of.
- Make sure your child eats their breakfast. It helps them to stay alert and engaged in school.
- Help your child to develop routines.
- Get their school bag ready the night before.
- Develop a night time routine that includes reading together and no screens just before bed.
- Try and make any medical/dental appointments for after school.
- Never take term time holidays.
- If you know your child will be absent from school, let us know in advance.
- If your child is ill, ring or email the school to let us know.

**Why is it important for your child not to miss school?**

If your children do not attend school regularly they are likely to:

- Struggle to keep up with their learning, dropping below their peers
- Make little progress with their learning
- Miss out on school social life
- Find it difficult to make and maintain friendships
- Become withdrawn and lack confidence

**How much time is lost?**

| <b>% attendance during one school year</b> | <b>Number of days absent</b> | <b>Lessons missed</b> |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 100%                                       | 0                            | 0                     |
| 97%  | 5                            | 25                    |
| 95%  | 9                            | 50                    |
| 90%  | 19                           | 100                   |