



LYNGFORD PARK PRIMARY & NURSERY

BIRCHAM ROAD, TAUNTON, TA2 8EX

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Headteacher: Mr N Arnold

Attendance Matters!

But why?

Whilst appreciating some were for illness, it is vital their attendance improves so they can make the most progress in all aspects of development.

Your child attends school for 190 days a year (52% of a whole year) over 38 weeks. Statistically, your child is only in school for just over 20% of a full week...	
Hours in week – including weekends	168 hours
Number of hours in a week a child attends school	9am-4pm (4pm is taking into consideration if they do clubs) 7 hours of school x 5 = 35 hours
Total time in school	35/168 as a percentage = 20.8%

Therefore, your child's time at school is precious. It should definitely not be the only time your child is learning, as learning life skills outside of school is also essential towards their development. However, whilst your child is in school, teachers try their best to support, nurture, explain, reassure, challenge their learning to help them make progress in many aspects – not just in their reading, writing, maths, science and all the other subjects.

Why is attendance so vital?

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. Naturally, the aim should be to attend 100% of the time. Children who miss school frequently will fall behind with their work and do less well in assessments. Research suggests children who attend school regularly could be at less risk of getting involved in crime or antisocial behaviour. The table below (www.bristol.gov.uk) illustrates how children's percentage attendance equates to the amount of school time missed.

School Attendance. During 1 school year	Equivalent Days Lost Learning	Equivalent Weeks Lost Learning	Over 7 years at Primary Lost Learning
95%	9	2	14 weeks – 1 term
90%	19	4	28 weeks – 2 terms
85%	29	6	42 weeks – over 1 year
80%	38	8	
75%	48	10	70 weeks – 2 years lost!
70%	57	11.5	
65%	67	13.5	94 weeks – 3 years lost!

Late Arrivals - It is also important to arrive at school on time, but why?

The morning gates now closes at 8.50am. If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time over one academic year.

15 mins late every day	3 weeks lost learning over a year
30 mins late every day	4 weeks lost learning over a year

Lateness is seriously reducing the chance of your child making good progress and it may have a detrimental effect on their well-being, mental health and attitude towards learning.



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My child has a low attendance. Ultimately what could happen to me as a parent?

This explains the procedures as clearly as possible. There are 5 stages regarding attendance. The first 3 stages are managed within the school, before higher authorities become involved.

Stage 1	Child's attendance above 95%	Your child has the best chance to make progress in all aspects of their education, regardless of ability. For children with additional needs, being at school means they can make the most of the support.
Stage 2	Child's attendance 80% - 95%	Equivalently, your child is absent for 1 day a week. This means their learning in school is being limited by their absence. Their progress is hindered by their absence. PFSA will offer support or Early Help Assessment (EHA) and work with you to try to address the situation, which will be having a negative effect on your child's learning. Hopefully, attendance will improve and return to Stage 1. It is expected parents will work with school to improve attendance.
Stage 3	Child's attendance 60% - 80%	Equivalently, your child is absent for 2 days a week. This means they are missing 40% of their learning – they will not be able to make good progress. Multi-Agency Support are likely to be requested through Team Around the School (TAS) and will continue to investigate reasons for absences. School support will still be provided. Attendance will be reviewed and monitored.
Stage 4	No improvement to attendance	Local Authority are likely to ask parents to attend a Local Authority Attendance Meeting.
Stage 5	No improvement to attendance	Prosecution or Penalty Notice - Failure to attend meetings or significantly improving attendance may result in a Prosecution.

Parents must take the responsibility to ensure their own child attends school.

As parents, we all need to instil a sense of aspiration to help our children. By supporting and encouraging them to have a positive attitude to learning and modelling good behaviours, we will ensure our children become successful adults with positive futures. ***After all, this is our aim as parents for our children.***

***We will continue to work with all parents to support them in regards to their own children.
If you wish to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.***