

WESTWOOD WITH IFORD SCHOOL



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Westwood with Iford School is improving how we monitor and manage the attendance of its pupils so I thought that this would be an ideal opportunity provide you all with a few key facts about school attendance.

The difference between 'Good' and 'Poor' school attendance.

At the end of every school term you will now receive a school attendance report for your child. The information below is to help you understand the attendance report.

The attendance of individual pupils and 'whole school' attendance is measured using a percentage score, similar to many school tests /exams.

However unlike school tests/exams, the margin of the difference between 'Good' and 'Poor' is a lot narrower. Below is the scale that school inspectors use:

LOW	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE	HIGH
Below 94.0%	94.0% - 95.0%	95.1% - 96.0%	Above 96.0%

As you can see, 95.0% or above is the benchmark for good school attendance and the school will begin to monitor your child's school attendance if it falls below 94.0%.

Understanding your child's school attendance rate

Once your child has missed 10 school days (2 weeks) during a school year, they will not achieve a 95% school attendance rate for that year. Below is a table that you can use as rough guide when considering your child's yearly school attendance rate.

ATTENDANCE RATE	95%	90%	85%
NUMBER OF SCHOOL WEEKS MISSED	2 WEEKS	4 WEEKS	6 WEEKS

As you can see from the table, a pupil with an 85% school attendance rate for the year will have missed nearly a whole school term. This level of school absence will definitely affect their ability to do well and achieve at school.

From now on, we will notify you, by letter, as soon as your child's attendance falls below 95%, to inform you that your child's attendance is being monitored on a termly basis with the expectation that it will improve.

I also meet with the EWO (Educational Welfare Officer) on a regular basis to discuss pupils who have below 90% attendance. Following this discussion, she will sometimes send an initial letter to a child's parents, inviting them in to the school for a meeting so that we can fully understand the reasons behind the low attendance.

Why is 95% school attendance so important?

Recent research has demonstrated that there is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. I have placed the results from this research into a simple table:

School Attendance Rate	% of pupils achieving 5 or More A* - C grades (including English & maths)
Above 95%	73%
90% - 80%	35%
below 50%	3%

Please help us to support your child's learning by ensuring that they do not miss any more school than is absolutely necessary. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Rockey
Head Teacher