

Attendance really does matter!

At Belle Vue we want to make sure that your child receives a happy, full-time education.



We understand that sometimes children need to be absent from school and we do not expect your child to come to school if they are ill - in fact we will telephone you to collect them if they are poorly!

But it is important that, as parents, you know what is expected by the Government and the school in terms of attendance. This leaflet is designed to keep you fully informed of our policy and practice.

What are Attendance Targets?

Under the Education (School Attendance Targets) (England) Regulations 2005, all schools are required to set an Attendance Target to reduce overall absence. Children's absences are expressed as a % of the total possible attendances.

What does your child's attendance rate mean?

- The average child's attendance is 95% or over.
- If your child's attendance is 90% it is equivalent to missing a half day every week or 4 weeks of the school year.
- An attendance of only 85% means that a child is missing 6 weeks or half a term.
- If a child only attends for 80% of the school year they will have missed 8 weeks of their education.

We monitor all attendance carefully. Please note that we will alter you if your child has an attendance rate of below 90% in any half term.

Every day counts for your child's full educational entitlement.



Rewarding Attendance

We do believe in rewarding achievement at Belle Vue. Not every one is able to manage 100% attendance but we feel that those who do should be recognised. Each term they are awarded a badge of commendation; Bronze for 1 term 100% attendance, Silver for 2 terms 100% attendance and Gold for 3 terms 100% attendance. Everyone is recognised in the final assemblies of each term.

What to do if your child is away from school.

If your child is poorly or there is a family emergency, please make sure you contact school immediately; this can be 'by phone or letter'. Phone calls or word of mouth messages by a third party will help to keep us informed but will need to be followed by "official" confirmation of the reasons for absence.

Where there is no message, absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

If your child is late they should be brought into school and must report to the office on arrival. This is to make sure they are entered on the register. Children who arrive before registers close at 9.10 (or 1.30pm) will be marked as late but present. Children who arrive after the registers close are marked as unauthorised absence.

Why is there so much concern about attendance?

Majority of our children are well supported by their families and have a good attendance record. However, there are a few who do not. If your child misses lessons or is regularly late and misses the introduction to the tasks set they are deprived of important information which will help their learning. A child who is 5 minutes late every day misses over 3 school

days in a year! Also, interruptions by late comers are disruptive and have a negative affect on the whole class.

Although we like children to be on time, it is not always possible.

Please send them late rather than not at all!

Holidays

We do understand the incentives for taking children away on holiday during term time - indeed it is often difficult to do otherwise. We would much prefer that this did not happen but if necessary, holiday forms are available from the office and should be completed at least 4 weeks in advance.

Holidays/Leave of absence requests during term time will be unauthorised unless the Head teacher deems the request to be a special circumstance.

Legislation dictates that a Leave of Absence Request can only be considered if it is from a parent/carer with whom the pupil normally lives.

Please remember. The computer generates the information on pupil attendance and will calculate total holiday times.



Attendance Matters

Every day counts for your child's education.

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