

Attendance at Willows Academy

Attendance at Willows Academy has a statutory duty to keep your child safe which includes knowing where they are if they are not in school. We appreciate that children are sometimes genuinely ill. If your child is going to be absent due to illness, Parents/carers are requested to telephone on the first day of absence before 8.40am. If you leave a message on the answerphone service before 8:00am please give your child's name, class and reason for absence and then each morning, if appropriate, for the duration of the absence. If you do not contact the office, school will text and then ring you followed by every contact number we hold for your child until we speak to somebody. If your child is absent for two consecutive days and we are unable to contact anybody, we will visit the family home to ensure that your child/ children are safe and well. If we are still unable to contact a named contact, then we may call 101 to seek police assistance in locating the family.

Rewards for Good Attendance and Punctuality

At Willows, we recognise the importance of good attendance and punctuality and as a result we reward the children in the following ways:

- Perfect attendance. Each day that a class has 100%, they will be awarded a letter which will spell out the words 'PERFECT ATTENDANCE'. When all the letters are in place, the class will celebrate their success with a treat, this could be an extra playtime, film and a cake etc.
- Weekly mention to the class with the best attendance and punctuality in the celebration assembly. These classes will be awarded with a certificate.
- Termly individual certificates for 100% attendance
- Children who manage to achieve 100% for the school year; will each receive a celebratory reward.

Willows Academy Attendance Procedures

If your child's attendance drops below 96% without good reason, you will receive letter 1 informing you that we are concerned.

If there are further absences, letter 2 will be sent.

Following letter 1 and letter 2, if there is no improvement in your child's attendance then the following actions may be taken:

- Home visit from the Pastoral lead or Head of Academy
- Education Penalty Notice warning letter

- Invite to Attendance Support Plan meeting
- Voice of the Child
- Education Penalty Notice
- Court proceedings

Punctuality – Arriving and Leaving School on Time

School opens its gates at 8:45am.

Registration begins at 8:55am and ends at 9:00am.

Morning registration ends at 9.00 if a pupil arrives after this time, he/she should be accompanied by the parent to school office and they will be marked as L in the register, which means they are late. If they arrive after 9:25am, they will be recorded as U and this results in an unauthorised absence for the morning, which affects your child's attendance.

You will receive a letter, a home visit and be invited to a support meeting if we are concerned about the number of Lates your child has.

Willows Academy has a breakfast club, and all pupils are welcome. The breakfast club opens at 8am and provides your child with a healthy breakfast and the opportunity to develop their social skills. You may find that regular attendance at breakfast club may help improve your child's punctuality.

Please be prompt when collecting your children from school at 3:15pm

Unavoidable Medical Appointments

We appreciate that some children have unavoidable medical appointments during term time such as speech and language or hospital appointments. All we ask is that you provide a copy of the appointment letter. If it is necessary for a child to be out of school for this reason, the child should come to school before the appointment if it is after 9:00am and be returned to school directly after the appointment.

Electronic registration is used in all year groups and taken twice per day at 8.55am and 1.00pm. A school day counts as 2 marks of attendance.

Although we cannot mark a child present who is attending an unavoidable medical appointment, if these are their only absences, 100% rewards will not be affected.

Holidays During Term Time

Holidays during term time will not be authorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and an Education Penalty Notice will be requested from the local authority. If you are planning to remove your child from school to take them on holiday, please complete a Leave of Absence form, available from the office or below. Please be aware that if you do not complete a Leave of Absence form or inform school that you are

taking your child on holiday, but school has good reason to believe they are absent due to holiday, then an Education Penalty notice will still be requested.

The Penalty is £60 per parent per pupil and if not paid within 21 days this will increase to £120. Failure to pay the full amount within 28 days will result in a summons to appear in the Magistrates Court