



What should I do if my child is anxious or worried about going to school?

Your child has a right to an education and to be safe and happy at school.

Sometimes children worry about

- friendships
- their learning

Sometimes parents let their child stay off school because of this. This will not help find a solution.

It's important to talk to the school if this kind of problem happens.

Effects of low attendance



Regular absence can lead to;

- Not achieving
- Missing important work.
- Lack of understanding of the work
- Lack of confidence and motivation to learn
- Not enjoying school and wanting to come to school
- Trouble making and keeping friends
- Missing other curricular opportunities and experiences



What can you do?

- Take holidays outside school term dates
- Try to make appointments out of school hours
- If your child has an appointment during the school day they still attend school out with the appointment time
- Where possible the school need to see proof of the appointment
- Inform school of all absences as soon as possible



Why is it important to attend school?

Our aim is to ensure that children leave school having achieved their best.

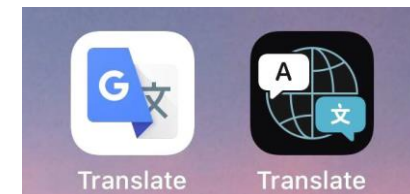
- To learn
- To have fun and make new friends
- To understand responsibility
- To experience new things in life
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religions, ethnicity and gender difference
- To achieve
- To experience wider achievements
- To develop new skills
- To build confidence, self-esteem and resilience
- To grow as individuals

St. David's RC PS



Attendance and why it makes a difference to your child's learning.

November 2021





When is it acceptable for my child to be off school?

We understand that there are some circumstances that means your child can not come to school.

Your child can be off school if:

- They are ill.
 - They are attending a doctor or hospital appointment (but should still attend school out with the appointment).
 - They are going to a meeting about a Children's Hearing or court, or if they are going to a Children's Hearing, care review or court.
 - If they are involved in an activity and the school agrees in advance.
 - Someone close to your child has died.
 - There is a crisis or serious difficulty at home or in your family.
 - They are going to a religious ceremony or a wedding of someone very close to them.
 - You are a Gypsy/Traveller family and while you go travelling you keep in touch with your child's teacher.
 - Your family is returning to a country of origin for cultural reasons or to care for a relative.
- If you have informed the school of the reason why your child is off, and the school is satisfied that this is a valid reason, these would be called authorised absences.



Working together

If you need help with your child's attendance it is important that we work together and there are ways that we can support.

The HT meets monthly with the EWO and PSO to look at lateness and attendance.

We may call you or write about

- Your child's lateness
- Your child's attendance
- Any absences that you have not confirmed (tbc)

Please always inform the office of any absence

0131 332 3500

admin@st-davids.edin.sch.uk

If attendance does not improve a formal referral may be made to the EWO and further steps will be taken.

Education Welfare Officer (EWO) – Liz Duncanson

Pupil Support Officer (PSO) – to be confirmed

School Nurse – Jenny McGhee

Educational Psychologist – Carmel Jacob-Thomson



100% Attendance	0 days of absence	Excellent	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off the a flying start
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory	
90% Attendance	19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor	Less chance of success and make it harder to progress
85% Attendance	27 days of absence 5 weeks and 2 days of learning missed – almost half a term	Very Poor	Serious implications on learning and progress
80% Attendance	36 days of absence 7 weeks and 1 day of learning missed – half a term	Unacceptable	
75% Attendance	45 days of absence 9 weeks of learning missed – almost 1 term missed	Unacceptable	