**Why is good attendance important?**

* No work is missed
* Work can be more satisfying
* A greater chance of good results
* A greater sense of belonging
* Better relationships with others
* Better prospects for the future

**Rewards for good attendance**

* Individual Certificates
* Class Trophy
* Weekly privileges for classes
* End-of-term and yearly rewards for pupils with 100% attendance
* The Easterside Experience

The Easterside experience was introduced to reward the children who achieve 100% attendance each term and throughout the whole of the academic year.

**How can we help you?**

If there is a problem, please let us know as we may be able to help.

Our Education Welfare Officer is:

**Roz Pickersgill**

Roz is available to speak to on Wednesday mornings, please contact the school to arrange an appointment.

Our School Attendance Officer is:

**Mrs Loughran**

**Do you know about our Pupil/Parent Support Advisors (PSA’s)?**

The care team at Easterside are happy to help you with any concerns or queries you may have about your child/children. Miss Sharp, Miss Welford and Mrs Carter are here to provide support and advice to you and your family.

If you would like to speak to Mrs Loughran or our PSA’s regarding your child/children’s attendance or punctuality, please do not hesitate to visit the school. Alternatively you can ring the main office using the number provided on the front of this leaflet.

**How can you help us?**

* Ensure that your child/children attend school, on time, everyday.
* Try to make medical appointments after school, or during holidays, if possible.
* Do not take family holidays during term-time.
* If your child/children are absent from school, please telephone school on the first day of absence.
* Send a letter of explanation to the teacher when your child/children return to school.



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**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

**What is Unauthorised Absence ?**

Sometimes a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school or there may be a family emergency. Such absences are allowed by law.

Unless there is a genuine reason for absence, pupils are required by law to attend school, everyday.

If you are the parent of a child who is of compulsory school age, (5 years or older) but who fails to attend reguarly, you are guilty of an offence.

**What to do if your child is absent?**

**It is the parent’s resposibility to inform school on the first day of their child’s absence.**

Please pop in the school or send a letter, or tell your child’s class teacher.

Verbal explanations from brothers or sisters are not accepted.



Parents need to provide evidence for their child/children being absent for more than one day.

**Evidence can be in the form of:**

* Letter from the doctor.
* Copy of the prescription with the child’s name printed on.

If your child/children is absent and you do not contact the school, the absence would be regarded as **unauthorised**.

**Punctuality**

It is important that your child/children arrives at school in good time.

Registration is an important part of the school day.

Frequent lateness can result in the loss of a considerable amount of learning time and this can seriously disadvantage your child.

**Being late adds up to a loss of learning.**

If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to over 3 days lost each year.

15 minutes late every day adds up to a loss of 10 days.

30 minutes late is the same as being absent for 19 days each school year!

**Remember school starts at 5 to 9!**

**Facts and Figures**

We would like all of our children to aim for 100%. Full attendance means that no learning time has been lost. Even a short absence can have a negative impact on learning.

95% attendance means – 9 days absent

90% attendance means – 20 days absent

85% attendance means – 29 days absent

If a child has missed out on many lessons, they will inevitably fall behind with their work and it is often difficult to catch up at a later date.

It is important therefore, that children are encouraged to establish good attendance habits at the start of each school year.

Every day your child is absent it impacts on their education, possible life chances and opportunities in the future.

**Attendance**

**Attendance Target for 2015 – 2016**

National Target **– 96%**

School Target - **96%**

To achieve these targets, your child/children **must** have a good attendance record.

We consider attendance of less than 95% to be **poor**.