

THE FACTS

Regular school attendance is the key to getting a good education. If your child is frequently absent from school she or he will be putting their future in serious jeopardy. Chronic absenteeism is strongly associated with failure at school. School attendance is one of the most important issues facing all schools in Britain. Your child must be taught to understand the value of education. As a parent or carer you need to understand the vital role you have in ensuring and promoting regular attendance at school. Regular attendance is necessary for success in school, and as a parent or carer you are the key person who will make a difference. Nearly all children enjoy the experience of school if they are secure and confident and feel that their parents or carers demonstrate that they too feel positive about school. As a parent or carer you can best support your child's education by helping your child to grow in an educationally stimulating environment at home. All children have a natural thirst for knowledge and new experiences, and parents are ideally placed to help them with these experiences in a secure way before they even get to school age.



THE LAW AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must have a proper full time education. Parents and carers are responsible for making sure this happens, either by registering their child at a school or by making other arrangements which provide an effective education. If your child does not attend the school regularly at which she or he is registered, your local education authority can take legal action against you. This would result in criminal proceedings. The Courts can impose a fine on each parent or carer of up to £2,500 for each child not going to school and/or impose a three month prison sentence! As the parent or carer you would also then have a criminal record.

EDUCATION MATTERS

"It's OK, he's with me"



Wrong!

**IT'S AGAINST THE LAW
When they should be at SCHOOL**



Maintaining Regular Attendance at Chalfont Valley Academy

Why regular attendance is important

Education is the most important gift we can give our children

HOW WE MONITOR ATTENDANCE

Every child's attendance is monitored every day. Each child's attendance should be above 95%. If your child's attendance falls below this level we will:

- Send you as parents or carers, an "A1" letter indicating that we have concerns.
- Monitor your child's attendance over the next 3-4 weeks, and will expect to see a vast improvement.
- Invite you to a meeting with the Principal and one of the Governors if there is no improvement.
- Contact Social Services if absence persists.
- Anything below 90% is considered persistent absenteeism.

Of course there will be times when your child is ill and cannot attend school but please remember *if your child is well enough to get out of bed to play or watch television they are well enough to come to school.* Coughs and sneezes are not a valid reason to stay at home. Neither is feeling tired...it just means your child needs to go to bed earlier!



The weather cannot be used as an excuse to stay at home either. Snowy days are still school days, unless there is a school closure announcement on the Bucks CC website. Rainy and cold days too, are still school days. England is known for its varied weather,



please be prepared for it and make sure your child is at school.

WHAT AFFECTS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?

Some of the common causes of non attendance for children of primary school age are:

- ◇ Not being in the habit of going to school regularly for whatever reason.
- ◇ Parents and carers expressing negative views about the school or teacher in front of their children.
- ◇ Children believing that their parents are disinterested in their education.
- ◇ Staying up late at night and not getting up at regular times in the morning.
- ◇ Trauma or disruption at home.
- ◇ Having problems relating to peers, relations or friends.
- ◇ Not enough support at home.
- ◇ Being bullied - or being a bully.
- ◇ Associating with the wrong kinds of friends or peer group.
- ◇ Not asking for help or support when its needed.

SO, IT'S OVER TO YOU!

For the majority of children, regular attendance at school is the norm. Do not let your child become one of the exceptions.

Absence from school must be reported to:

01494 764521

AND FINALLY....

Here is Oscar (fictional)



He has 90% attendance. Sounds good doesn't it? But is it....?

90% ATTENDANCE = 1/2 DAY MISSED EVERY WEEK!

1 school year at 90% = 4 WHOLE WEEKS OF LESSONS MISSED!

Oscar's learning and achievement will be severely affected.



HIGH ATTENDERS ARE GOOD ATTAINERS!