



BASSETT GREEN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter

May 2023



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Ms Long and Mrs Stillwell are also DSL's.

Attendance

We are sure that like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Bassett Green we continue to work hard to try to raise attendance levels and to reduce instances of lateness. Our target for whole school attendance is 97% however, the whole school's attendance for the Autumn Term was only 92.4%. This means that on average children have missed 5 and a half days of school so far this year. Nationally, attendance is 96%, so we are falling well below that level.

Have you heard the buzz? Here at Bassett Green

School Attendance Matters!

Our target is to achieve 97% attendance

Arriving late adds up to lost learning. Did you know.....

When a pupil is:	In a year that pupil would lose the following days of education:
5 minutes late	3 days
10 minutes late	6.5 days
15 minutes late	10 days
20 minutes late	13 days
30 minutes late	19 days

...every minute counts!

Be on time and buzzing to learn!

Days off school add up to lost learning. Did you know.....

Attendance	Weeks of learning missed	Impact
100% attendance	0 weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success WELL DONE!
95% attendance	2 weeks of learning missed	Poor attendance WE'RE WORRIED
90% attendance	4 weeks of learning missed	Very poor attendance WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED
85% attendance	6 weeks of learning missed	
80% attendance	8 weeks of learning missed	

...every day counts!

Be your best- be in school!

Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work.
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends.
- Be unhappy at school.
- Misbehave so others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult.
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through into secondary school and future employment.

Attendance facts:

Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:

- All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the Local Authority.
- If your child is not in school s/he does not reach his/her learning potential.
- If your child's attendance falls below 95% they will be monitored by the Pastoral Team and if there are no improvements, then no more absences will be authorised without evidence.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full time education.
- Parents can be issued with fixed penalty notices (fines) for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly - this includes taking children out of school on holiday.
- The local authority has the power to prosecute parents in the magistrate's court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- If your child arrives after 9:00am we are required to mark them as having unauthorised absence for the whole morning - arriving after 9:00am once in a week brings their attendance down to 90% for that week.

- Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning - for example arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- When children are late they find it harder to settle into the routine of the day.
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day.
- Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child.
- Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class.



There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children.

Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner. Every day really does count

How can you help your child attend school regularly?

- Talk to your child about school.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- Make sure your child understands why school is important.
- Show your child that you are interested in what they have done at school.
- Get everything ready for school the night before.
- Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays.
- Bring your child to school for the time before or after an appointment wherever possible.
- Take holidays during school holidays and not during term time.
- Set your alarm and your child's alarm clock- see who can beat the clock!
- Only grant days at home for genuine illness (you will know!).
- If your child is slightly under the weather, still send them into school- children often start feeling better as the day goes on and they get busy, and if the school is worried they will call.
- Children can attend school if they are taking medicines - speak to the school office.
- We can give children certain medications with your permission.

Please also ensure that you:

- Keep in touch with school staff- we may be able to support you with advice, rewards for your child or other incentives.
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason and keep in contact with school on subsequent days of absence.
- Give up to date contact details to school.
- Attend attendance meetings if you are invited to do so - in these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve attendance.
- If your child is absent due to an appointment, please show the office the appointment card or letter - clearly named and dated prescriptions can also be used as evidence.



How do I report an absence?

If your child is unwell and cannot attend, we ask that you call the school office before the start of the school day. Our office opens at 8am and can be contacted on 023 8067 6262. If you have other children in school, you can also notify the office staff in person.

If you are unsure whether to send your child to school, the NHS has this handy website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please help us and your child by ensuring their attendance remains above 97%, allowing them to achieve their potential.