

attendance MATTERS

A child who does not attend school regularly may:

- Underachieve academically - official research shows 78.7% of pupils with full attendance in key stage 4 achieved 5 or more grade 5s or above including Maths and English. For pupils with attendance between 95% and 99.9% this dropped to 69.1% and by the time a pupil became a persistent absentee (i.e. attendance of 90% or below) the rate of pupils still achieving 5+ of the top grades has decreased to just 35.6%.
- Find it difficult to maintain strong and supportive friendships.
- Miss out on opportunities in further education.
- Have an increased chance of becoming involved in antisocial or criminal behaviour.

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9.5 days	2 weeks	60 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	240 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

CAN ATTENDANCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO EXAM RESULTS?

Greater than
95% Attendance

78% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended more than 95%

78%

Less than
90% Attendance

50% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 90%

50%

Less than
80% Attendance

39% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 80%

39%

Source: School Leavers 2015/16

Your Responsibilities as a Parent

Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that:

'If a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school his/her parent(s) are guilty of an offence'.

Once a child is enrolled at Saltley Academy it is the legal responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their child attends school on time every day, ready and willing to learn, unless prevented from doing so by illness or other exceptional circumstances for which absence is authorised by the school.

If your child is too unwell to come to school, Saltley Academy expects you to:

- Contact the school before 8:40am, stating the reason for absence and the likely date of return – the contact number for school is **0121 566 6555**.
- Continue to call and report absence daily, for every day of absence
- Provide medical evidence if requested
- Please attempt to make any appointment for dentist, optician and doctors outside of school hours. If a school time appointment is unavoidable please ensure that your child attends school before/after the appointment. Medical evidence should be provided for all appointments.

You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- Making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- taking an interest in their education – ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- Discussing any problems they may have at school and letting their House Team know about anything serious
- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work

Holidays/Leave in Term Time:

- Only in exceptional circumstances are schools allowed to authorise leave of absence. Requests are to be made to the Head of the School in writing by completing a Term Time Leave of Absence request form.
- If the application is not considered as one of exceptional circumstances the request will be refused. If pupils are taken out without the Head of School's permission, their absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents will be liable for prosecution.

Legal Proceedings:

- Legal proceedings will be considered after Saltley Academy has tried to engage with, and offered Early Help support to the family of a pupil who has attendance issues.
- If the poor/non-attendance of a pupil is not resolved, Saltley Academy may decide to take legal action against the parents, or responsible adults of the child.
- If found guilty by a Magistrate, a parent/responsible adult could be fined up to £2500, or a Parenting Order could be issued, which lasts for up to a year.