



Attendance Matters

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the new half term, I would like to remind you of the importance of good attendance for all pupils. Every day a pupil is absent, is a lost opportunity for learning. Too many absences not only affect achievement for the absent pupil but can also disrupt learning for the entire class. In addition, there are now heightened expectations for schools to monitor and improve attendance as a matter of urgency. Research shows that pupils who consistently miss school are at risk of lower academic achievement.

Therefore, we must make you aware of the issue of persistent absenteeism and that parents/carers can certainly help to improve their child's attendance and consequently, their child's achievement and progress. The Department for Education's definition of 'Persistent Absence' is when a pupil's overall absence equates to 10% or more of their possible sessions; attendance below 90% means your child is in the persistent absentee category.

During an average school year, there are 190 days when a pupil is expected to attend school. This leaves 175 holiday days for trips and family occasions. The Winterton Federation Attendance Ladder below, shows how many days of school absence equates to the percentage of attendance as well as how this can affect your child's progress and outcomes.

The Winterton Federation Attendance Ladder			
0 Days of school absence equates to ...	100% attendance	Fantastic	Your child's attendance will positively impact their success and progress!
2 days of school absence each year equates to...	99% attendance	Excellent	
5 days of school absence each year equates to...	97% attendance	Good	
10 days of school absence each year equates to...	95% attendance	School is concerned	Your child's low attendance may negatively impact their success and progress.
20 days of school absence each year equates to...	90% attendance	School is very concerned	Your child's very low attendance is likely to have a negative impact on their success and progress
30 days of school absence each year equates to...	85% attendance	School is highly concerned	Your child's extremely low attendance is highly likely to have a negative impact their success and progress

The Winterton Federation

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EVERY MINUTE COUNTS SO DON'T BE LATE!

Lateness = Lost Learning

5 Minutes late each day = **3** days lost learning
10 Minutes late each day = **6.5** days lost learning
15 Minutes late each day = **10** days lost learning
20 Minutes late each day = **13** days lost learning
30 Minutes late each day = **19** days lost learning

Did you know that your child's best learning time is at the start of the school day so every minute counts!

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!

Here at The Winterton Federation, we are part of the North Lincolnshire Authority attendance initiative called The Attend Framework. The purpose of this initiative is to heighten awareness of the importance of attending school each day and to improve school attendance and punctuality. If your child is healthy, they should be in school.

What does this involve?

The Attend Framework helps identify any potential barriers to attending school or being on time for school in each individual case. Professionals will engage the pupil as well as their parent/carer within this process so that an effective support plan can be made.

What Can Families Do?

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Always encourage and expect good attendance from your child and reinforce the message that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in school, and set a good precedent for their future ventures like going to college, university or workplace. Support strategies include:

- **Avoid scheduling holidays when school is in session.** The Department for Education advises Head Teachers not to authorise holidays in school time.
- **Have regular routines** for bedtime and the morning.
- **Lay out clothes and pack their bag** the night before.
- **Talk about the importance of regular attendance** and about how your child feels about school.
- **Don't permit missing school** unless your child is genuinely unwell. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety and not a physical illness. If you are unsure whether your

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child is telling you the truth about being ill before school then please send them in to school. Rest assured that we will send your child home if they are poorly; we do not want to keep poorly children in school. If your child is genuinely ill, then please notify the appropriate school before 9.15am stating the actual reason your child is absent. Please do not give a general comment that your child is 'poorly' or 'ill' as we have to show an actual reason for 'illness' or being 'poorly' on our attendance reports especially if the Education Inclusion Service request them.

- **Talk to the teacher/TA or the Pastoral/Attendance Team** for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable if they seem anxious about going to school.
- **Avoid medical appointments when school is in session.** If this is unavoidable, you must provide proof of the appointment and try to ensure attendance in school before and after the medical appointment.
- **Be aware of patterns of illness** from your child in case there is a particular day they don't like attending school, then let school know so we can support your child.

School gate opening and closing times

Winterton C of E Infants' School gates open at 8:40am and close at 8:50am at the start of the school day. If your child arrives after this time then they are late for school. At the end of the school day, the children leave school at 3:20pm.

Winterton Junior School gates open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am at the start of the school day. If your child arrives after this time then they are late for school. At the end of the school day, the children leave school at 3:30pm.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. As a Federation, we constantly strive to ensure that we can deliver the best education for your child and for them to reach their full potential; we hope you understand that attendance and punctuality are key factors to your child's success.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance and or punctuality. We will be more than happy to discuss this with you and provide any necessary support.

Kind regards,

The Winterton Federation Attendance Team

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