



Working Together to Improve Attendance

A is for Attendance!

Autumn term 2024-2025

At Malpas Alport, we know the impact regular attendance has on your child's learning and wellbeing; and that having good attendance is directly linked to raising achievement and develops skills for life and work. Regular attendance enables pupils to adapt better to routines, schoolwork, and friendship groups. Therefore, we ask that parents/ carers support the school by ensuring that your child attends school every day, on time and arrives ready to learn.

Whole School Attendance for so far this year:

96.8%



Whole School attendance target for 2024-25: **97%**

Whilst our current whole school attendance is 97%, persistence absence (below 90%) is a higher than we would like. Unauthorised leave of absence and illness are often the main cause for a pupil's attendance to quickly drop below 90% so early on in the year.

Attendance below 93% = concern letter sent home and attendance monitored.

No improvement = meeting to discuss issues and set targets.

Attendance below 90% = serious concern: Attendance Panel, Parenting Contract, Fixed Penalty Notice

If your child's attendance is falling below 93% there are several things you can do to help prevent this from declining further:

- Avoid making appointments during term time or normal school hours. If this is unavoidable, then aim to return to school after the appointment
- Do not allow your child to stay off school unless they have sickness, diarrhoea or a temperature.
- Provide medical evidence for appointments attended as requested by the school office
- Do not plan to take your child out of school for a holiday/days out during term time.

-Talk to school if you are concerned that their attendance is being affected by other matters.

Punctuality Matters!

Almost all of our pupils come into school on time, but last year there was a total of 405 late arrivals at school.

- Pupils are expected to arrive at school on time and ready to learn- 8.30-8.45am
- A pupil who arrives late after the register has closed, this will be marked as late. If they arrive after 9:30am this is then marked as (U) which counts as an unauthorised absence.

Lateness means missed learning!

Minutes late per day	Number of days of learning lost over a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days

Always phone the school office on the first day of absence before 9:00am and each day of absence afterwards.

01244 268600



Holidays and leave of absence during term time

**Your child attends school for 190 days out of 365
this leaves 175 days for holidays.**

Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate if:

- Unauthorised absences of at least 10 consecutive school sessions (five school days).
- For poorly attending learners, at least 10 sessions (five school days) lost due to unauthorised absence during a school term. These do not need to be consecutive.
- For poorly attending learners, persistent late arrive at school in a term. Persistent means at least 10 sessions of late arrival.

Fixed Penalty Notices:

1st absence- £160 reduced £80 if paid within 21 days

2nd absence- £160 if paid within 28 days

3rd absence- Prosecution and possible of a County Court Judgement

**5 children had 100%
attendance last year**

A big well done!!

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD

It is normal that every child at some point may experience a little bit of anxiety around coming to school and for lots of reasons. This can start at any age and it can be more common among children with additional or special educational needs (SEND) There can be many reasons why your child might experience school anxiety, but dealing with it can be stressful for you as a parent, as well as your child. Difficulties attending school can happen suddenly or build over time and are likely to be due to different factors such as:

- social and/or work pressures at school
- difficulties maintaining positive relationships with peers
- unmet needs
- home and/or family factors
- sensory needs making the environment feel overwhelming

Some things you may spot in your child include:

- not wanting to get up, get ready or go to school
- anxiety and heightened emotions when getting ready to leave for school
- physical symptoms like headaches, stomach-ache or feeling sick
- a change in behaviour either by becoming more withdrawn or acting out more
- trouble sleeping or getting to sleep
- not doing schoolwork or performing worse at school

How to help:

It can be a worrying time for you as a parent. The most important thing is to listen to your child and to try and be calm, patient and show empathy. It's also important to look after yourself and seek support when you need it. Most importantly, come in as soon as possible and talk to your child's class teacher or Mrs Wetton who will be able to listen and offer suggestions and advice. If your child is finding it hard to get into school, avoid arguing with them and be supportive of any small achievements they make, like putting their uniform on or walking to the school gates. There will always be a member to staff to help and reassure and there are lots of things we can put in place to help.

If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child's class teacher, or Mrs. Wetton (Headteacher).