

# Argyll and Bute Council Maximising Attendance – A Guide for Parents/Carers



## Regular attendance enables your child to:

- Develop important life skills.
- Form and maintain relationships with peers and adults in school.
- Feel connected to their school community.
- Develop positive health and wellbeing.
- Learn through a wide and varied curriculum.
- Fulfil their potential.
- Prepare for adult life and the world of work.

## What can I do to help my child attend school?

- Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time.
- Maintain good morning and bedtime routines – sleep is very important.
- Talk with your child about the importance and benefits of good attendance.
- Be involved with your child's education – talk to them about how they are getting on at school.
- Arrange non-urgent appointments outside of school hours.
- Avoid family holidays during the school term.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with school – we are here to help.

## The impact of poor attendance

Attendance Percentage	Number of school days missed in an academic year
100%	0 days of absence No missed learning
95%	9 days of absence 1 week + 4 days missed learning
90%	19 days of absence 3 weeks + 4 days missed learning
85%	27 days of absence 5 weeks + 3 days missed learning
80%	36 days of absence 7 weeks + 3 days missed learning
75%	45 days of absence 9 weeks + 1 day missed learning

*Research shows that pupils who regularly miss school are more likely to become isolated from their friends, underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.*

## What happens if my child does not attend school regularly?

Your child's school will contact you and offer support if your child's attendance **falls below 90%**.

The school will continue to work with you until your child's attendance improves.

The school may identify further support and seek advice from other professionals to ensure your child's needs are met.

## What should I do if my child is anxious or worried about attending school?

We want to make sure that you get the advice and help that you need to support your child to go to school.

Contact your child's school who can help.

Other resources are also available here:

[Argyll and Bute Educational Psychology Service - Attendance \(google.com\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education/psychology-service-attendance)

## Reporting Absence

**If your child is unable to attend school, please contact us by phone before 9am.**

If your child continues to be unable to attend school then parents/carers must contact the school every day (this applies to all absences other than a holiday where contact only needs to be made in advance).

Council policy is that school will make contact if a child is absent and there has been no communication from home.

Thank you for your support.