

Attendance



At Beckfoot Thornton we expect all students to have **at least 97% attendance**. If they don't it can have serious repercussions on their education.

Expectations

Students:

- To attend regularly and on time
- To be punctual to lessons
- Any notes or messages from parents with regards to absence are taken to Tutors and/or Year teams.
- To know what their attendance is for the year, the current week and the number of lates they have accrued.

Parents:

- To ensure their child attends regularly, punctually, properly dressed and equipped to learn.
- To ensure their child attends every day the School is open unless they are too ill to do so.
- To avoid keeping their child away from the School for any reason other than illness.
- To avoid arranging holidays during term time.
- To immediately inform the School if their child is unable to attend (by **8.20 am** where possible), including the reason for absence and expected

date of return, and to confirm in writing on their child's return. A space for absence notes is provided in the Student Planner.

- If no indication of a return date has been given, parents/carers should contact the School on each day of absence.
- Parents/carers are strongly advised to avoid taking their children on holiday during term time.
- **Parents/Carers who take their children on holiday during term time without authorisation or outside an agreed date, risk being issued with a penalty fine or being prosecuted.**

Why is it important for children not to miss school?

Most parents want their children to get on well in life.

Nowadays, it is more important than ever to have a good education behind you if you want opportunities in adult life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly.

What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable and are easily drawn into crime. Those children who play truant are more likely to offend than those that do not.

Research also shows that: less than 40% of pupils in secondary schools with an average of 17 days or more absence get 5 good GCSEs (grades A* to C) compared to more than 90% in schools with an average of less than 8 days absence.

What happens if your child does not attend school regularly?

Your child's school is responsible by law for reporting poor attendance to the LA. As a parent, you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly, even if they are missing school without your knowledge. You run the risk of being issued with a penalty notice or being taken to court. The LA may decide to prosecute a parent.

If this happens:

- Parents can be fined up to £2,500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly.

- Magistrates can also impose a Parenting Order, which means that the parent has to attend a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

What about authorised absences?

Of course there may be times when your child has to miss school because she or he is ill. This is to be expected and for the odd day off sick you should **follow the school’s procedures for notifying illness - phone school and either leave a message or speak to the relevant Year team.** Children may also have to attend a medical or dental appointment in school time. However, you should **try to make routine appointments such as dental check-ups during the school holidays or after school hours.**

Persistent Absence (PA)

- A student becomes a persistent absentee when their attendance drops below 90% at any point during the academic year.** This is detrimental to a student’s education and their prospects upon leaving school.
- Any student who is at the threshold, or in PA status will be subject to intervention. This may take the form of:
 - Meetings with Achievement Manger or PSO*
 - Monitoring of attendance*
 - School based meetings with Parent carer*
 - Action plan to improve attendance*
 - Home visits by school or Education Welfare Officer (EWO)*
- If your attendance drops below 90% you will be missing at least ½ year of school in 5 years....

Attendance	Time missed related to % attendance	
	In 1 year	Over 5 years of school
90%	4 weeks	½ Year
80%	8 weeks	1 year
70%	12 weeks	1 ½ Years
60%	16 weeks	2 Years
50%	20 weeks	2 ½ Years

You can help your child by:

- By making sure they leave on time for school.
- If they are well enough to attend school, send them in... do not let your children think they can have a day off for any small ailments.
- Do not allow them days off for example to visit family, shopping trips, birthdays, etc....
- Make sure they are equipped fully for school and wearing the correct uniform.
- They should arrive in school by 8.15am, ready to start lessons at 8.20am. If you drop them off please make sure you do so in plenty of time as being late for school can also lead to an unauthorised absence if they not in school by 8.50am.
- Respond to any messages from the school's automated system via text message as a soon as possible.

Attendance Matters

Beckfoot Thornton Academy

Tel: 01274 881082