

Attendance Legislation

All Schools and academies in the UK have a duty to promote good attendance

Parents are responsible under the Education Act 1996 for ensuring their child's full and regular attendance at school, whilst they are of compulsory school age. This means that ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is a legal responsibility for parents / carers and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

Only the Headteacher can authorise a pupil's absence from school. We can ask the Local Authority to take legal action if we have not authorised your child's absence from school. Legal action can include:

- Prosecution
- The issue of a fixed penalty notice (fine)
- An Education Supervision Order
- A Parenting Order

If the Local Authority agrees to a prosecution the maximum fine is £2500 and / or 3 months imprisonment. Further details can be found at gov.uk.

Prepare your child for Success!

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success, both in school and life.

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential in the workplace too. Children who are used to attending school on time unless they are too unwell to attend, will be better prepared for the attendance and punctuality in the workplace. Indeed, punctuality and attendance are one of the first questions on any references we will provide to future colleges and 6th forms and apprenticeships for your child.

Your words are very powerful and can make school positive. When you make attending school a priority, you help your child to achieve, develop healthy life habits, avoid risky behaviour and achieve better grades to reach their true potential.

When a child attends school regularly this helps them to feel more connected and part of our school community. In addition, it also helps children develop important social skills and friendships which sets them up positively for the future.

What about term time holidays?

In April 2017 the Supreme Court upheld the ban on parents taking their children out of school for family holidays during term time. Delivering the verdict, Lady Hale said "Unauthorised absences have a disruptive effect, not only on the education of the individual child but also on the work of other pupils ... If one pupil can be taken out whenever it suits the parent, then so can others ... Any education system expects people to keep to the rules. Not to do so is unfair to those obedient parents who do keep to the rules, whatever the costs or inconvenience to themselves."

At Beckfoot Thornton leaves of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays do not constitute exceptional circumstances and we will ask the Local Authority to issue you with a penalty notice if we do not agree the leave of absence should be authorised. Fixed Penalty Notices are £60 per parent per child for the period of absence.