

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Is 90% attendance good?**

It's not bad but should be a lot better. Any less than 90% and your child cannot do their best. Below 90% is considered persistent absence.

- **What is poor attendance?**

The Education Welfare Service works closely with School Attendance Officers and become very concerned at 86% and below, legal action may be taken in some cases.

- **What do these figures mean?**

90% attendance at the end of a school year means your child has been absent on 19 days. 86% attendance at the end of a school year means your child has been absent on 25.5 days.

- **What does Persistent Absence mean?**

In simple terms any child that continues to have low attendance throughout the year will have persistent absence. Lots of odd days illness that break many school weeks will cause this.

- **What does genuine illness mean?**

High temperature, diarrhoea and sickness, childhood ailments e.g. measles tonsillitis are genuine illness. A child should not be kept home with coughs, colds, tummy aches and headaches.

- **Can I take long weekends and odd days as holidays?**

Not really, again the government does not encourage this. Too many Mondays and Fridays missed would not be good for achievement. You cannot request a holiday for a day out e.g. birthday treat.

- **What does Zero Tolerance mean?**

Holidays will not be authorised during the first two weeks in September, SATS, Mocks and GCSE times of the year.

- **What does Penalty Notice mean?**

The local authority can fine each parent £80 for each child. This means a family with two parents and two children could face a fine of £320 for unauthorised absence.

- **Can a fine be paid in instalments?**

No – a fine must be paid in full within 4 weeks or it will double. Failure to pay at all will lead to prosecution.

**Remember: If you want your child to do his/her best they must be in school at least 90% of the time. That means no more than 19 days genuine absence in one year.**

**Kingsdown School encourages your child to attend school every day and on time to achieve their full potential. Our expectation is 96% Attendance for all!**