

Every minute matters, every second counts!



You will be aware that it is a parental responsibility to ensure regular school attendance.

Stockport Council's Services for Young People can issue fixed penalty notices of £60 (rising to £120) per parent per child to parents whose children do not attend school regularly or who take holidays during term time.



We hope that by working in partnership with yourselves that your child will attend well and therefore achieve their full potential whilst at Mersey Vale.

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# Attendance at Mersey Vale



## WHY IS ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?

We all want our children to do well. Good attendance at school will lead to better opportunities for your children in their adult life.

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every second counts!



### HOW IS GOOD ATTENDANCE REWARDED?

- Children achieve better in school!
- Children with 100% attendance are awarded a certificate each term in a special assembly
- Children with 100% attendance for the whole school year are given a certificate and a medal our end of year awards assembly
- Children with 100% attendance for the whole school year are given a certificate and a medal our end of year awards assembly and get a special reward
- The class with the best attendance each week wins Albert Bear

### WHAT DOES POOR ATTENDANCE MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD?

It is important to realise as a Parent/ Carer the impact that absence from school has on the overall development and achievement of your child.

It is worth noting the impact of poor attendance over a five year period.

If your child's attendance overall is:

100% = full attendance

95% = 1/4 of a school year missed

90% = 1/2 of a school year missed

85% = 3/4 of a school year missed

80% = the equivalent of 1 whole school year missed

**A CHILD WHO TAKES OFF 10 DAYS IN ANY ACADEMIC YEAR WILL ONLY ACHIEVE 94.7% ATTENDANCE.**



### WHAT IF MY CHILD IS ILL?

We understand that there will be times you child is ill. Don't keep your child off if they only have a slight cold or they are feeling tired. Bring your child to school, the majority of the time once your child is in school with their friends and learning they will be ok. If your child is not fit to be in school we will call you to collect them.

Please support the school by informing us of any absence on the **first day** that your child is not in school. If your child is ill for longer than two days we ask that you provide a medical note from your GP or a NHS Walk-in-Centre on your child's return to school.

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### CAN MY CHILD TAKE A HOLIDAY DURING TERM TIME?

Although we understand how important it is for families to spend time together and the benefits of family holidays to children, we strongly request that you plan your holidays outside school term time. From September 2013 new regulations have been introduced by the Department for Education which state that **"headteachers may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances." You can find out more about these new regulations on the DfE website.

If there are exceptional circumstances when a parent/ carer may need to request absence for their child we ask that they fill in the request form that is available from the school office. This must be completed before booking any holidays or flights.

When a request is made, the following information will help us decide if the holiday can be authorised:

- The reason for the absence and why it can not be taken in the school holidays
- The number of days requested
- Previous requests for absence in term time especially if attendance is below 95%
- The child's attendance and punctuality record
- The time of year, the child's stage of education, any special educational needs they may have, their progress and the impact of an absence on their learning

Parents should remember that there are 13 weeks holiday from school each year, including a 5 or 6 week long summer holiday. It should therefore not be necessary to take additional holidays from school during term time. If a child has unauthorised absence in term time an Education Penalty Notice of £60—£120 will be issued by Stockport's Services for Young People.



### WHAT IF MY CHILD IS LATE?

Children can come into school from 8.45am and school starts at 8.55am. If your child arrives after this time they will miss valuable teaching and learning time. If your child is late they must report to the school office and enter their name in the late book.