

School Attendance Matters!

**MISS SCHOOL.
MISS OUT!**
#AttendanceMatters

merthyr.gov.uk/attendance



As a parent you are legally responsible for making sure that your child attends school. If your child fails to attend school without an acceptable reason you risk getting a Fixed Penalty Notice or being prosecuted.

Improving educational outcomes for our children and young people is a key priority for the Local Authority. The links between poor attendance and attainment are compelling and the Local Authority is aiming to address the root cause of non-attendance, one of these being, 'safeguarding and long-term absence'.

'Persistent failure to send children to school is a clear sign of neglect'.

Arranging appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school. You should not expect the school to agree to your child going on holiday during term time and if you do take them out of school this too may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Since 2014 the Education Welfare Service has had the authority to issue fixed penalty notice and fines for parents whose children have five days or more of unauthorised absence. The notice can

be issued for any absences not authorised by the school, including holidays. The EWS can issue these notices when concerns are raised by school or the police.

Green	100%	Not missing any lessons.
	99%	Missing about 10 lessons.
	98%	Missing about 20 lessons.
	97%	Missing about 30 lessons.
Amber	96%	Missing about 8 days of school. It will be difficult to catch up on the lost learning from about 40 lessons.
	95%	Missing about 2 weeks of school.
	93%	Missing 14 days of school. This is almost three weeks which is a significant amount of education to lose.
Red	92% and below	Missing more than 3 weeks of education. A serious loss of learning which is likely to have a detrimental effect on achievement and life chances.

#MissSchoolMissOut!

We want to use this opportunity to remind everyone; pupils, parents, carers, teachers – the whole community – that school attendance matters!

We want to make sure the young people of Merthyr Tydfil are given the best start in life and we feel that a good education helps to provide that.

No matter how tempting it is to take a day off to buy those new school shoes, or taking regular term-time holidays; remember: **Learning gives your child opportunities – don't let them miss out!**

Having difficulties getting your child to school?

If you are having difficulty in getting your child to school or think there may be a reason why your child does not want to go to school, you should speak to your child's class teacher, Head of Year or Headteacher for help and support. There is also advice and support available from the school's Education Inclusion Officer or Family Liaison Officer.