



Eccleston Mere Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr. R Mugan

Pupil Attendance

Dear parents / carers,

The Department for Education set out the guidance 'Working Together to improve School Attendance' to ensure schools take the necessary action to maintain good attendance.

Currently, our whole school attendance stands at **95.8%**.
Eccleston Mere Primary School has a whole school attendance target of **96%**.

The impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge and it is therefore vital that we make every school minute count. We urge you to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent your child falling behind with their learning.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is **persistent absence** which will be closely monitored by school. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to fines or prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

Children with attendance falling between 90% and 96% is also a new area of focus in school following guidance from our local authority and Ofsted.

There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance:

- If your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them to school, contact the office to seek advice on 01744 734 829. If your child is absent, please provide any medical evidence to the school office.
- **Avoid taking any holidays during term times.**
- Keep up to date with what % attendance your child has so that you know if they are at risk of persistent absence.
- Speak to school staff to relay any concerns.
- Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important **you** feel it is.

We expect that your child's attendance is 96% or above, unless there are exceptional circumstances.



The table below outlines potential missed learning due to absence:

Attendance % over a school year	Equal to number of days absent	Approximate weeks of absence	School Concern Level
100%	0	0	Perfection
98%	4	1	Impressive
96%	7	1.5	Good
95%	9	2	Nearly there - pupil can catch up
94%	11	2	Needs to improve - some concerns
90%	20	4	Poor attendance - concerned
85%	30	6	Very poor attendance - serious concerns

Research suggests that pupils who have an average of 20 days absence per school year see negative effects throughout their educational journey.

A child with 80% attendance across 5 years = 1 whole year of lost learning.

Keeping Parents Informed

To raise your awareness of your child's attendance, each term, we will send out an attendance letter detailing your child's current attendance.

The letter will contain an attendance ladder which will explain your child's attendance further.

Attendance letters for autumn term will be provided at parents' evening.

Attendance Awards

During assemblies, children with 100% from the previous week will be put into a draw to win a prize for their attendance.

At the end of each half term, we will continue with our attendance certificates for children who manage to maintain 100% attendance for that term.

Children with 100% attendance across 1 term will receive a blue attendance badge. Pupils with 100% attendance across two terms will receive a yellow attendance badge and those with 100% attendance across all three terms will receive a green badge.

During assemblies, we also share the class with the winning attendance from the previous week.

Although we recognise that absences cannot always be avoided, we also believe that children should be rewarded for excellent attendance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs S Cain
Deputy Headteacher



