

Attendance Spotlight

on Attendance and Persistent Absence

Attendance at Park Grove

Welcome to our first attendance newsletter of the year! At Park Grove Primary Academy, we believe that consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success. Every day in school counts! When your child is in school, they're not only learning key subjects like math and English, but they're also building friendships, developing social skills, and becoming part of our vibrant school community.

We understand that children get sick, and there will be times when they can't make it to school. However, we ask that you continue to prioritise getting your child to school on time and ready to learn whenever possible.

Understanding Our Attendance Tiers: To help everyone understand our school's attendance goals, here's a quick breakdown of what different attendance percentages mean. Our whole-school target is 97% attendance.



Why is school attendance so important?

Attending school **regularly** helps to build **confidence** and develop vital **life skills**



School is the **key** to **future success!**



Missing **2 days** of school each month = Missing nearly **3 weeks** during a school year



15 minutes late every day

= **two weeks** of learning lost each school year



Data shows pupils with more than **95% attendance** Achieve better GCSE results!

at least one grade higher!



Even **90% attendance** is still 19 days of education lost in a school year



100% Attendance:

Fantastic!

We celebrate this excellent achievement.

99-97% Attendance:

Very Good.

This is a great level of attendance, showing strong commitment to your child's education.

96-95% Attendance:

Good.

This shows your child is consistently in school.

94-90% Attendance:

Worrying.

At this level, your child is missing almost a month of school over the year, which can have a significant impact on their learning.

Below 90% Attendance:

This is considered **Persistent Absence**

Persistent Absence: What It Means and How We Can Help

The Department for Education defines persistent absence as a student missing 10% or more of their possible school sessions. This means a child is absent for around 19 days or more over the school year.

If you are finding it difficult, please speak to our Inclusion Team for support - Mrs Martin, Miss Ford, Mrs Harbertson or Mrs Pugh.

When a child reaches this point, we become very concerned. Missing this much school can create significant gaps in their knowledge, making it harder for them to keep up with their peers. It can also impact their confidence and social development.

If your child's attendance is nearing or has fallen below 90%, please know that we are here to help. We want to work with you to understand the challenges you may be facing. Our dedicated attendance team can offer support in many ways, including:

- Creating an individual action plan to improve attendance.
- Referring you to outside support agencies if needed.
- Connecting you with resources that can help with any barriers to attendance.

We need to be informed every day that your child is absent even if you told us the day before.

By 8:30am

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office by 8:30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms.

If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. If we can not make contact we will email, text and ring all of your contacts. We will also check with siblings in other schools.

By 10am

If we do not know where your child is by 10.00am, we will conduct a wellbeing call to the house to ensure everyone is safe.

If we still do not know why your child is not in school, we will consider seeking advice from other agencies which may include a call to a sibling's school or a police welfare call.

How we monitor and report on your child's attendance: Parents/carers are key partners in ensuring a child's successful attendance at school so we aim to let you know at regular points how your child is doing. We also have a legal duty to keep you informed.

Parenthub:



- You can check your child's daily attendance on Parenthub.
- It's a quick and easy way to keep up to date with your child's attendance

Phone calls:

- Each week your child's class teacher will look at the whole classes attendance and identify any concerns.
- Your child's class teacher or our Inclusion Team will call you to discuss attendance concerns and look at ways to support improving your child's attendance.

Half termly letters and attendance meetings:

- Each half term we collate children whose attendance is between 95%-90% and those below 90%.
- You will receive a letter explaining our concerns and what we all need to do to improve attendance.
- The actions may involve an attendance meeting, involvement from Ebor Academy Trust or seeking advice from the City of York.

We monitor and track attendance daily, weekly, termly and across the whole year.

Missing school is like missing a chapter in a really good book!



Promoting and Celebrating Good Attendance

Our school attendance target
is

97%



We promote and celebrate good attendance in several ways:

Weekly Updates:

Attendance figures and the two classes with the highest attendance are published on a weekly newsletter.

Each classroom will also display its weekly attendance on the door.



Weekly Celebration:

We celebrate attendance each week, focusing on progress.

The class with the highest attendance in each key stage is awarded one of our Attendance Bears (Preston or Bear Growls) to stay in class for the following week.



Termly Celebration:

End of Term Rewards:

Children get a raffle each Friday if they have attended every day and on time that week.

The raffle is drawn during our end of term celebration assembly!

Top prize - £50 gift card

Runner up prizes



How You Can Support Good Attendance: Parents are key partners in ensuring a child's successful attendance at school.

Establish a Strong Routine



Prioritise School and Communicate its Importance

Be Proactive and Communicate with the School

- **Create a consistent schedule:** Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time, even on weekends. This helps children get enough sleep and makes the morning rush less stressful.
- **Prepare the night before:** Get bag, clothes, and any equipment ready in advance. This simple step saves a lot of time and reduces morning anxiety.
- **Make breakfast a priority:** A good breakfast gives your child the energy they need to focus and learn.
- **Talk about school positively:** Show your child that you value their education. Talk about what they learned, their friends, and their teachers. Avoid speaking negatively about the school.
- **Schedule appointments outside of school hours:** Whenever possible, book doctor or dentist appointments for after school or during school holidays.
- **Do not take holidays during term time:** This can cause significant disruption to a child's learning and is often not authorised by the school.
- **Inform the school of absences immediately:** If your child is sick, call the school office on the first day of absence to explain why they are not in school.
- **Understand the rules:** Familiarise yourself with the school's attendance policy, including the difference between authorised and unauthorised absences.
- **Be honest about a child's health:** Only keep your child home if they are truly too unwell to attend. Minor ailments like a slight cough or runny nose don't require an absence.
- **Reach out for help early:** If your child is struggling with attendance for any reason (e.g. anxiety, bullying, academic difficulties), contact the school immediately. We are here to work with you and your child to find a solution.

Success in school starts with good attendance

