



Weston C. of E. Primary School places great importance on attendance and to keep you informed we will be sending a regular attendance newsletter with up to date attendance data and helpful advice.

Last Year's Figure

Our overall attendance figure for the academic year 2021-22 was **92.68%**. National statistics for 2020-21 reported that average attendance in primary schools was 96% so we are **well below** the national figure. This means that our children are often missing out on crucial learning in the classrooms. Our target this year is to achieve 97% attendance, however, our attendance to date is already below at **96.31%**. We need your support to ensure that children attend school on every day possible.

Persistent Absence

Persistent absence means that a child is absent for more than 10% of the time. Poor attendance has a detrimental impact on their learning. Over a 5 year period a pupil whose attendance is 90% will have missed **half of a school year** – this is a huge amount of lost education! Last school year, **28%** of our pupils were persistent absentees. National statistics for 2020-21 reported that average persistent absence in primary schools was 8.2%, we are **well above** the national figure and must take urgent action to reduce this. Please work with us to ensure that we make the most of every minute of your child's valuable time in school by getting them here every day, on time and ready to learn.

Appointments in School Time



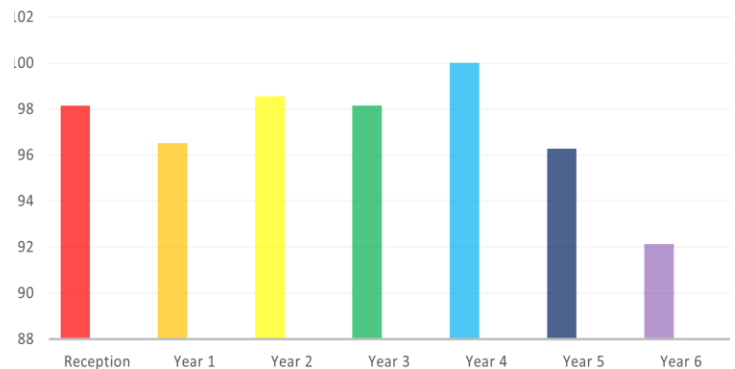
We would ask that wherever possible, medical appointments are made outside of school hours. If your child has an appointment that cannot be made outside of school hours, please bring them to school either before their appointment or afterwards. There is no need for your child to miss a whole day of learning. Please also provide office staff with proof of the appointment for our records.

When is it not okay for your child to stay away from school?



Holidays, birthdays, shopping, family days out – there are 175 non-school days a year. This is 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments

Attendance by Year Group September 22



Year group Attendance Figures Sep 2022

Reception – 98.14%
Year 1 – 96.52%
Year 2 – 98.55%
Year 3 – 98.15%
Year 4 – 100%
Year 5 – 96.27%
Year 6 – 92.13%

Leave of Absence during Term Time

You are strongly advised not to take your child out of school during the school term and **at Weston St Mary Primary School it is extremely unlikely that 'exceptional circumstances' leave will be granted.** If, however, you still decide to do so, then a leave of absence form must be completed with the reasons and evidence that the leave is **unavoidable**. You may be asked to meet with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss your request and the impact that the missed learning time will have on your child's education.

Please bear in mind if school has unauthorised the absence, on your child's return to school, the paperwork for a fine may be raised and forwarded to the Local Authority.

Attendance Letters

Attendance is checked daily in school. If your child's attendance falls under 95% you will be sent a letter informing you of this. We appreciate you may have contacted school to explain the absences but in most cases this letter is for information only, it is only when attendance does not improve; further action may be taken.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!
Missing school is ... missing out.

Thank you for your continuing support.

