

# Every School Day Counts in Swindon!

## Attend, Enjoy and Achieve

### An A-Z of School Attendance: A Guide to Parents/Carers



- A. **Appointments** – Nearly all surgeries are open late and at weekends. Please try to arrange appointments after school.
- B. **Being Bullied?** – Please don't keep your child off school. There are many people at school that are trained and want to help.
- C. **Casual Absence** – This means that children are being kept off school when they don't need to be. For example: to go shopping for birthday treats or pretend sickness.
- D. **Dinner Money** – Prepare this the night before. It will save time the following morning.
- E. **Encourage** – Encourage your child to take part in out of school hours clubs, such as breakfast clubs. It allows them to experience new activities and meet new friends.
- F. **Friendships** – Friendships at school can stay with your child for the rest of their life. Days off school make it harder for your child to fit back into friendship groups.
- G. **Good Attendance** – This is the secret to your child's success. Good attendance is anything above 95%.
- H. **Happy Times** – Schools days can be the best time of your child's life. Don't let them miss out.
- I. **INSET** - These are teacher training days. Your child is not at school these days so please find out when they are. Be aware that different schools have different INSET days so don't assume these will be the same for children at different schools.
- J. **Jump for Joy!** – Celebrate your child's attendance achievements when they are rewarded for good attendance at school.
- K. **Keep Fit** – A healthy lifestyle means a healthy mind. A nutritious breakfast will give your child the energy they need for the rest of the day. Drinking plenty of water helps concentration too!
- L. **Lateness** – Being late disrupts teaching plans and your child will be embarrassed when they arrive in class after their friends. Arriving early to school will set them up for the day ready to learn!
- M. **Missed Minutes** – As little as 15 minutes late every day is equal to two weeks of lost learning per academic year.

- N. **New Starters** – It is important to get children into good patterns of attendance from an early age so these can be carried through into later life.
- O. **Opportunities** – It is not all Maths, English and Science. School is about learning how to be good citizens and treating others with respect. Children can also be part of many trips, clubs groups and teams
- P. **Praise** – Always look for the 'positives' in testing situation rather than the 'negatives.' Have a system at home to reward and praise good behaviour.
- Q. **Question** – Ask your child about rewards they may have received for good school attendance.
- R. **Ring In!** – Ring school as soon as you know your child is going to be absent or late.
- S. **SATs** – These are very important tests that your child will sit in Year 2 and 6. Absence leading up to or during this time puts your child at a significant disadvantage.
- T. **Term Time Holidays** – Children are out of school 175 days of the year. So there are plenty of days to take a holiday. Holidays during term time can cause your child to fall behind with work.
- U. **Unauthorised Absence** - This means that the school won't authorise the time your child has been away for school. For example: late after register closed, holidays taken during term time or absences with no explanation.
- V. **Volunteer** – Volunteer your help to parents you know should they be struggling to get their child into school on time
- W. **Website** – Check out your schools website for information on holidays, school opening and closing times and information on what is going on at school.
- X. **Xxxx** – Show your child love and encouragement by asking them about their school day.
- Y. **You** – You are legally responsible for ensuring your child attends school. Your child will thank you one day for encouraging them to attend and achieve good results.
- Z. **Zzzz** – Early bedtimes make for early mornings and a better start to the school day.