



Nether Kellet Primary School

Attendance Guidelines in Brief for Parents (Appendix to Policy)

Our approach to attendance is in line with new Government policy and Lancashire County Council guidelines for schools.

Attendance in General

We actively promote good attendance and punctuality because we know the benefits of children attending school for as many days as possible and on time. Poor or erratic attendance and punctuality has many negative consequences for children:

- Feeling disorganised.
- Missing key teaching.
- Missing interventions that take place as soon as they arrive at school or need to be implemented on particular days.
- Missing time to catch up with friends in the playground in the morning.
- Not being as integrated in friendship groups due to absence.
- Missing chunks of work or odd days' lessons meaning they require more input from teachers and teaching assistants.
- Lowered confidence.
- Reduced focus and engagement.

We know that sometimes time off school is unavoidable due to illness and if your child is really ill then we would rather they stayed at home to recover. If, on the other hand, your child feels a little 'under the weather' we would rather they came to school as they often 'perk up' and if they are ill we will phone for you to collect them.

From our point of view as a school, we know that the children really benefit from very good attendance and punctuality; we see more focused, engaged and confident children who are involved in the sequence of learning that takes place in every subject rather than having 'gaps' that they need to catch up.

Absence for Family Holidays

While we recognise the value of quality time spent with family on holidays, in line with Government policy we discourage holidays taken in term-time unless there are special circumstances which make this unavoidable.

In deciding whether holiday leave may be authorised, key criteria are as follows:

- Whether there are exceptional circumstances meaning that the time off school is justified.
- Excellent attendance over the past year.
- General good support for the child's education from parents working in partnership with the school and a willingness to maintain children's basic skills through reading, practice of tables, and writing a holiday journal for example.
- Whether other holidays have been taken in term-time in the past.

Not fulfilling one or more of these criteria may result in the holiday leave not being authorised, which means that if taken it is recorded on the child's register as unauthorised absence and may lead to a penalty notice from the Local Authority.

Where the head and governors deem that the holiday leave may not be authorised and the leave is still taken the Local Authority may impose a fine on parents if the unauthorised absence exceeds 6 days.