



ATTENDANCE AT LUM HEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

At Lum Head Primary School we take our responsibility to provide your child with a good education very seriously. In order to do this, we need your child in school every day and on time.

Good attendance and punctuality are an essential part of your child's success at Lum Head Primary School. Pupils who regularly miss school or arrive late fall behind in lessons and may not achieve their full potential.

If your child is going to be absent you must contact the school office or your child's teacher on the first day of absence and every third day.

Tel: 0161 428 7992

If no contact is received the absence may be marked as unauthorised and a home visit may be made if absence becomes persistent.

The school day is divided into two sessions. If your child is unable to attend the a.m. session but is well enough/able to attend the p.m. session it is expected that every effort is made to do so to receive a p.m. attendance mark.

Attendance = Progress = Success

Medical and Illness Absence

It is expected that medical/ dental appointments be made outside of the school day. If this is not possible your child must attend school before and after the appointment.

An appointment card or letter is required to authorise these absences.

If your child is absent due to illness, and they have accrued 3% or more absence, medical evidence may be requested for all absences. If this is not received the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Medical Evidence includes a prescription, medical appointment card/ letter or note from your GP.

Leave of Absence

Permission for a leave of absence will only be given in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Please make the request in writing at least 4 weeks in advance of the leave of absence. We may contact you to discuss this further and will respond in writing.

If you continue to take the leave without permission or you do not make a request a referral may be made to the Local Authority to issue an Education Penalty Notice (EPN) or instigate a prosecution.

Leave of absence will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstance. These do not include weddings/holidays.

Attendance

If your child does not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work.
- Miss a vital part of a block of work, making it harder to keep up in subsequent lessons.
- Miss out on the social side of school life.
- Find it harder to make and keep friendships - a vital part of growing up.
- Not make the progress they are capable of.

Unauthorised Absence

Unauthorised absence places you at risk of receiving an Education Penalty Notice (EPN) fine of £120 per child per Parent/Carer to be paid within 28 days (£60 if paid within 21 days), or a prosecution in the Magistrates' court.

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. Permitting absence from school without a good reason is an offence and may result in prosecution.

Attendance

Every day counts as 2 sessions, a morning session and an afternoon session.

| Absence | Number of Days missed over a year | Number of Sessions missed over a year | Number of Weeks missed over a year |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5% | 9 Days | 18 Sessions | 2 Weeks |
| 10% | 19 Days | 38 Sessions | 4 Weeks |
| 15% | 29 Days | 58 Sessions | 6 Weeks |
| 20% | 38 Days | 76 Sessions | 8 Weeks |

Punctuality

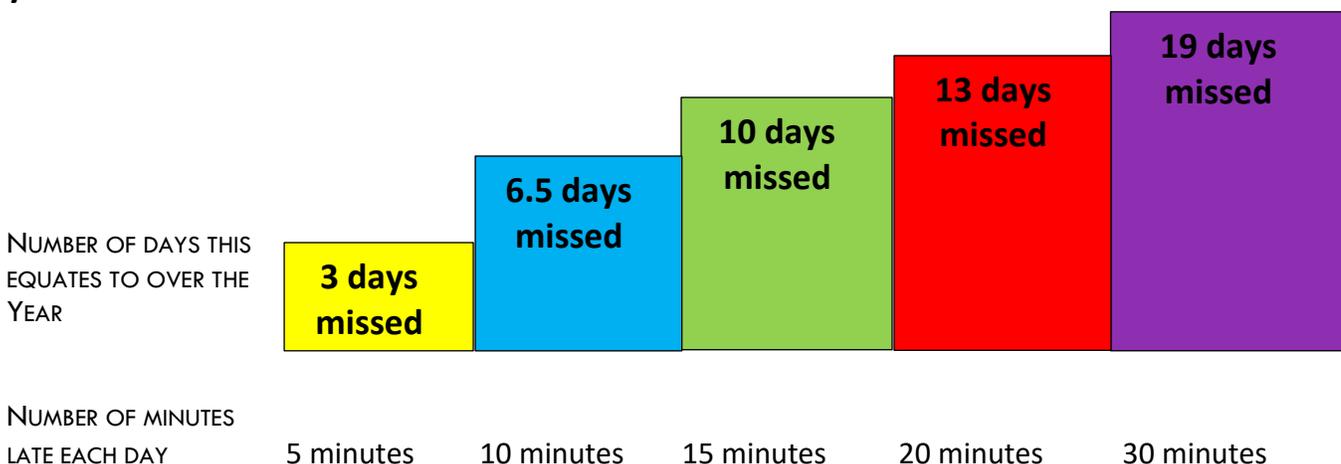
Every minute counts!

All pupils are expected to be at school by 8:50am ready for the start of the day at 9:00am. Parents of pupils arriving after 9:00am must report to the office to provide a reason for their child's lateness. The pupil will be marked present but arriving late. The register will close at 9:30am – pupils arriving after this time will be marked as an unauthorised absence (U code) for the morning session.

Arriving late by just a few minutes each day can have a big impact on achievement. It also causes disruption for your child, the teacher and the other children in the class.

Did you know?

If your child is late for just 5 minutes each day this would equate to 3 days missed over a year.



If your child's absence is above 10% they are classed as a 'Persistent absentee' and their absence and punctuality is monitored by the school who work closely with the Local Authority to achieve a high level of attendance. If you are worried about something, or are having any difficulties getting your child to school, you can talk to the Headteacher or our Family welfare worker who will offer support and guidance to help you overcome any difficulties.

What can you do?

- ✓ Take responsibility for your child's absence and punctuality- what is their absence %? Are you trying your best? Is there any way you can improve?
- ✓ Be at school at 8:50am every day so your child is ready to start learning at 9:00am.
- ✓ Only keep your child off for genuine illness and emergencies.
- ✓ Take medical appointments outside of school time, or if it is unavoidable, bring your child to school before and after your child's appointment.
- ✓ Talk to school if you are worried or feel you need more support.