



Dear Parents and Carers,

**We all know how important education is for children.** As a group of local headteachers, we work together to see that all children in our area get the best possible education. One of the ways we are doing this is in regard to school attendance.

Attendance is key. The more children attend school the more likely it is that they will have good levels of attainment. Even small improvements to attainment at 11 years old can increase the amount a person earns before they are 33 years old – an increase of up to 25%!

1. **Pupils with higher attainment** at KS2 and KS4 **had lower levels of absence** over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.
2. Generally, the **higher the percentage of sessions [lessons] missed** across the key stage at KS2 and KS4, **the lower the level of attainment** at the end of the key stage.

Essentially, DfE information shows that **the more children attend school, the more they achieve and the better their chances are of earning well.** Our school and local information shows the same. In our schools, the single most common reason for children not learning as well as they could is because they are not in school as much as they should be.

**Children may only be absent from school IF they are too ill to go to school or IF the headteacher has authorised an absence for exceptional reasons – and this has been applied for, by parents, before the absence.**

### What does ‘too ill to go to school’ mean?

The NHS has clear information to answer this question. That information can be found via this link, <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>, and is attached to this letter.

### What does ‘exceptional circumstances’ mean?

Very few circumstances are classed as ‘exceptional’. Below are clear examples of what are and are not exceptional circumstances – this is true for all local schools.

Reason/Circumstance	Will it be authorised?	Further information
Doctor or hospital appointment that can not be moved to out of school hours	Yes	If possible, all medical appointments should be out of school hours.
Family funeral	Yes	
Days of religious observance such as Eid	Yes	Length of time will be based on the time of the religious observance or festival.
Family Holiday	No	There are 195 days in a school year. Therefore, there are 170 days for family holidays.
Car broken down.	No	
Dental appointments	No	These can usually be made out of school hours.
Optician appointments	No	These can usually be made out of school hours.
Parent is unwell	No	Where practical, schools will sign-post parents to support and may, themselves be able to provide some support.
Sibling is unwell	No	

None of our schools will consider applications for leave during term time:

- At any time in September. This is very important as your child needs to settle into their new class as quickly as possible.
- During assessment and test periods in the school's calendar affecting your child.
- When a pupil's attendance record already includes any level of unauthorised absence.

### **How are schools doing locally?**

Children in our area do not have the same levels of attendance as the national average. Below is an infographic showing how our schools are performing against the National Target for overall attendance. This data is for the Autumn Term 2022. The Government gives all the schools a target of 96%.

96% National Target
Burrsville Infant Academy - 94.8%
Cann Hall Primary School - 94.2%
Rolph Primary School - 93.68%
Great Clacton Junior - 93.5%
White Hall Academy - 93.1%
Alton Park Junior School - 93.1%
Holland Haven - 92.4%
Holland Park Primary School - 92.3%
St Clares Catholic Primary - 92.3%
Mistley Norman Primary School - 91.95%
Saint Osyth Primary School - 91.42%
Oakwood Infant School - 90.9%
Sir Martin Frobisher Academy - 90.5%
Clacton County High - 90.4%
Walton Primary School - 89.72%
Ravens Academy - 89.2%
Clacton Coastal Academy - 85.41%

The next infographic are the persistent absence rates for each school locally. A child is classed as having persistent absence if their attendance drops below 90%.

National Target - 0%
Burrsville Infant Academy - 15.5%
Cann Hall Primary - 20.5%
Great Clacton Junior - 20.6%
Rolph Primary School - 21%
Alton Park Junior - 22%
Holland Haven Primary - 25%
White Hall Academy - 26%
Holland Park Primary School - 28.3%
Clacton County High - 29.1%
Mistley Norman Primary - 30.8%
St Clares Catholic Primary - 33.5%
Walton Primary School - 34%
Saint Osyth Primary - 35.9%
Oakwood Infant School - 36.11%
Sir Martin Frobisher Academy - 37.5%
Ravens Academy - 40.8%
Clacton Coastal Academy - 41.32%

We must all do all we can to ensure all our children and young people have good school attendance – so they learn well, attain well and go on to earn well.

Best Regards,

**Alton Park Junior**

Ms N Sirett

**Burrsville Infants**

Miss K Siggery

**Cann Hall Primary**

Mrs S Crookes

**Great Clacton Junior  
& Rolph Primary  
Schools**

Mrs K Jones

**St Claire's**

Mr J Whiteside

**Holland Haven**

Mrs S Bardetti

**Holland Park**

Mr M Moseley

**Clacton Coastal  
Academy**

Mr D Lees

*N. Sirett*

*K Siggery*

*J. Crookes*

*K Jones*

*J Whiteside*

*S M Bardetti*

*M Moseley*

*D Lees*

**St Osyth & Mistley  
Norman Primary  
Schools**

Mr M Carter-Tufnell

**Ravens Academy**

Miss C Minter

**Sir Martin Frobisher**

Mr S Wood

**Oakwood Infants**

Ms k Maguire-Egan

**Walton Primary**

Mrs S Bliss

**White Hall Academy**

Mr G Bradley

**Clacton County High**

Mr N Gallagher

Mr C Taylor

*M. L. Carter-Tufnell*

*C Minter*

*S Wood*

*K Maguire-Egan*

*S Bliss*

*G Bradley*

*N Gallagher*

*C Taylor*