

What are the consequences of Persistent Absence?

If a parent or carer fails to secure their child's regular attendance at school, they could be found guilty of a criminal offence under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

As part of the criminal investigation, parents or carers may be interviewed under caution. Parents or carers may be subject to legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.

What are the outcomes of Legal Proceedings?

If you are found guilty, magistrates can impose a fine of up to £2,500 and/or three months imprisonment.

Parents or carers may also be ordered to pay substantial legal costs. If convicted, parents and carers could get a criminal record.

We would like to emphasize that legal proceedings are a last resort when all other methods to improve attendance have failed.



School start and finish times

Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5, 6)

Start at 8:30am finish at 3.05pm

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Start at 8:45am finish at 3.20pm

Early Years (Year R)

Start at 8:45am finish at 3.05pm

A late mark will be given if your child arrives more than 10 minutes after their start time (above). If your child arrives more than 10 minutes late an unauthorized mark will be given for the morning session.

Attendance at school is a crucial part of a child's development and we want to work with our families to ensure that every child at Shamblehurst Primary School is able to attend each day they are able to.

Contact details

School Phone Number—01489 782342

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Persistent Absence

A guide for parents and carers



Working with
 Hampshire
County Council

What does the term 'Persistent Absentee' mean?

A child is defined as a 'Persistent Absentee' if they miss approximately 10% or more of all possible school sessions, regardless of whether the absence is authorized or unauthorized.

90% may seem like a high rate of attendance, but it actually equates to 19 days of absence from school in a year, which is almost 4 weeks of learning missed.

For children with 80% attendance, they will have been absent for 38 days of school over a year, which is over 7 weeks of learning missed.

What are the effects of Persistent Absence?

There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Poor attendance can disrupt a child's own learning and that of other children in their class. It has a damaging effect on a child's education and most of the work missed while a child is off school is never made up.

Pupils who attend school regularly are likely to leave school with more qualifications, and increased access to employment opportunities that children with persistent absence.

Children with persistent absence are at increased risk of involvement in crime, child exploitation and anti-social behavior.

What does good school attendance look like?

At Shamblehurst Primary School we take absence seriously. We identify children whose attendance falls below 95% and provide supportive intervention to improve this.

- **Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.**
- **Every school day counts.**
- **It is vital that parents or carers work with schools when a child is near to the 10% persistent absence threshold to prevent emerging patterns of absence.**

Why is there a law about poor school attendance?

There is a law to protect children who have poor school attendance.

Unauthorised absence from school can be a cause for concern in relation to child welfare, safety and protection.

Under the Education Act 1996, parents and carers have a legal duty to secure their child's regular and punctual attendance at school.

As well as being a legal requirement, it also ensures your child has access to the best start in life and that they are able to benefit fully from the education they're entitled to receive.

Good attendance is vital in enabling children to maximize the opportunities available to them.

175 non school days a year							
175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments							
365 days in each year	190 School days in each year	10 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence Half a term missed	38 days absence	47 days absence	
		180 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education	143 days of education	
		100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
		GOOD Best chance of success Gets your child off to a flying start	WORRYING Less chance of success Makes it harder to progress		SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child Court action		