

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND THE LAW

The Education Act of 1996 states that it is the responsibility of the parents and guardians to ensure that all children between the ages of 5 and 16 attend school on a regular basis and on time.



Remember...

It is your responsibility to let the school know if your child is going to be absent. You should contact the school by 9am on the 1st day of absence.

The ONLY legally acceptable reasons for non-attendance are:

- ILLNESS & MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS
- RELIGIOUS DAYS OF OBSERVANCE



NO



HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAYS & ROUTINE APPOINTMENTS

AUTHORISATION OF FAMILY HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE HEADTEACHER (WELSH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE).

WHERE POSSIBLE, DO NOT TAKE YOUR CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR ROUTINE APPOINTMENTS.

MISSING SCHOOL ADDS UP!

	100% attendance	0 days of learning	Best chance of success
	95% attendance	2 weeks of learning missed	Poor attendance will impact on learning
	90% attendance	4 weeks of learning missed	
	85% attendance	5 ½ weeks of learning missed	Very poor attendance. Your child will be referred to Education Welfare Officer.
	80% attendance	At least 7 ½ weeks of learning missed	

LEARNING MISSED IN ONE YEAR

DID YOU KNOW?

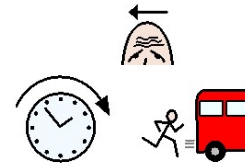
If your child's attendance is 80%, this means they have missed:

- 1 day EVERY week
- 6 days EVERY half term
- 12 days EVERY term
- 36 days EVERY year
- 180 days in FIVE years
-

...That's nearly **ONE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR**

WORRIED ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?

If you are worried or feel there is a problem with your child's attendance it is always best to talk to the school who can provide support.



LATENESS ADDS UP!

Ensure your child is in school on time. Being 15 minutes late everyday will add up to **TWO WEEKS** of school missed every year!



**YSGOL PEN-Y-BRYN
ATTENDANCE TARGET
IS**

94%



PENALTY NOTICES

Information for
parents/carers & pupils



ERW

Ein Rhanbarth ar Waith
Education through
Regional Working

Penalty Notices

Welsh Government have instructed all local authorities to implement Penalty Notices under the (Penalty Notice) (Wales) Regulations 2013 from September 2014.

Any absence from school, for whatever reason, is detrimental to a child's long term life opportunities, so should be avoided if at all possible.

A Penalty Notice is a method of intervention with the aim of seeking to secure an improvement in the child's attendance at school.

Who will receive a Penalty Notice?

A notice will be issued to each parent in respect of each child.

Under section 576 of the Education Act 1996 the definition of a parent is:

- all natural parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child, is considered to be a parent in education law).

Appealing against a Penalty Notice

There is no statutory right of appeal under the Regulations, but where a parent contests the issuing of a Penalty Notice they can contact the Education Welfare Service.

Why should my child attend school every day?

100% attendance

0 days learning missed

Best chance of success!

95% attendance

2 weeks of learning missed

Poor attendance will impact on learning

90% attendance

4 weeks of learning missed

Poor attendance will impact on learning

85% attendance

5 1/2 weeks of learning missed

Very poor attendance has a significant impact on learning. You are at risk of prosecution.

80% attendance

7 1/2 weeks of learning missed

Very poor attendance has a significant impact on learning. You are at risk of prosecution.

A penalty notice may be issued:

When a pupil has a minimum of 10 sessions or five school days lost due to unauthorised absences during the current term and bringing the overall school attendance to below 90% in the school year to date.

10 sessions or 5 school days are lost due to holidays in term-time if the absence takes the whole school attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date.

10 sessions of persistent lateness after the register has closed in a term bringing the attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date, or a combination of the above.



The cost of a Penalty Notice

If a notice is to be issued the parent will have 15 days to provide any evidence they may wish to present to the school to argue why the notice should not be issued.

It will be for the school to determine if the evidence is accepted.

There are no limits to the number of formal warnings that can be issued.

If a Penalty Notice is issued then the fine will be:

£60 in the first instance to be paid in 28 days, which may rise to:

£120 if not paid promptly to be paid within 42 days of receipt of notice.

If the Penalty Notice is not paid then the Local Authority (LA) will consider prosecution for the original offence, which is **'failure to ensure regular attendance at school'** under section 444 of the Education Act 1996 or withdraw the notice as specified in the code of conduct.

Support with School Attendance

Please remember that if there are reasons why your child is missing school then keep the school informed.

If your child is off school then speak to the school as early as possible on the first day of their absence.

Your child is expected to be in school for 190 days an academic year with 175 days off due to weekends and school holidays.



Who can you call?

Further information on the issuing of Penalty Notices can be obtained from your child's school or from the Local Authority Education Welfare Service on 01792 771935.

Further information about Penalty Notices is available at www.swansea.gov.uk