



The Importance of School Attendance

Every Day Counts

What is our Vision?

At Pontefract Academies Trust, our vision is to foster a culture where excellent school attendance is recognised as a foundation for lifelong learning, personal growth, and future success. We aim to create an inclusive, supportive, and engaging environment that motivates every pupil to attend school regularly and punctually.

We believe that consistent attendance is vital for academic achievement, social development, and emotional well-being. Through strong partnerships with families, staff, and the wider community, we are committed to identifying and addressing any barriers to attendance, ensuring that every pupil feels valued, safe, and inspired to come to school each day.

Our goal is to empower pupils to understand the importance of regular attendance, take pride in their commitment, and develop positive habits that will benefit them throughout their lives. By promoting clear expectations, early intervention, and a proactive approach to support, we strive to reduce absenteeism and ensure that all pupils have equal opportunities to thrive.

Together, we will work towards a school community where high attendance is the norm, celebrated as a key contributor to personal and collective success.

Yearly Attendance	Yearly Days Missed	Yearly Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	150
95%	10	50	250
90%	20	100	500
80%	40	200	1000
50%	100	500	2500



What support is available?

Support is available to help families ensure regular school attendance. We offer guidance through our attendance officers, pastoral teams, and dedicated staff who can work with you to understand and overcome barriers. This may include help with transport, mental health support, counselling, or referrals to external agencies.

Regular communication between home and school ensures concerns are addressed early. Local authorities can also offer support plans and advice. The goal is to work in partnership with our families to create a positive, supportive environment where every child can attend school and thrive. Please feel welcome to contact the school if you would like to learn more about the support we can offer.

How do we recognise and reward good attendance?

We use a variety of positive strategies to reward good attendance and encourage pupils to attend to school regularly. These can include certificates, badges, or prizes for weekly, termly, or yearly excellent attendance.

Attendance is celebrated in our assemblies, and we give out special mentions, or display names on attendance boards. Each school may reward attendance slightly differently – please feel welcome to contact your child's school to learn more. These rewards help reinforce the importance of being present and punctual, promoting a culture where good attendance is valued, recognised, and celebrated by the whole school community.



How do we hold parents / carers accountable for attendance?

We hold families accountable for attendance by setting clear expectations and regularly monitoring pupil attendance. When concerns arise, we will contact parents or carers to discuss reasons for absence and offer support. If attendance does not improve, we may arrange meetings, issue formal warning letters, or create attendance improvement plans.

Persistent unauthorised absences can lead to involvement from the local authority, including penalty notices or legal action. We work in partnership with families but stress that ensuring regular attendance is a legal responsibility. By addressing issues early and consistently, schools aim to improve attendance while maintaining accountability and promoting student success.

Working together

We are committed to working in partnership with families to promote and achieve good attendance for our pupils. Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning, progress, and well-being. When children attend school consistently, they build strong relationships, develop essential skills, and make the most of every learning opportunity. We understand that challenges can arise, and we are here to support you in overcoming any barriers.

Together, we can ensure your child feels safe, happy, and motivated to attend every day. We can work together to give your child the best possible chance to succeed.



Why does attendance matter?

School attendance matters because it is essential for academic success, social development, and emotional well-being. Regular attendance ensures pupils stay on track with learning, build strong relationships with peers and teachers, and develop positive habits like responsibility and punctuality. Missing school can lead to gaps in knowledge, reduced confidence, and difficulty catching up. It also affects future opportunities, including further education and employment.

Good attendance sets the foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. By attending school consistently, pupils gain the skills, support, and experiences they need to reach their full potential and succeed in life.

Why is punctuality important?

Punctuality is essential for pupils to succeed at school. Arriving on time helps children settle into the school day calmly and ensures they don't miss important instructions, learning activities, or routines that support their emotional regulation. Even a few minutes of lateness each day can add up to hours of lost learning over the year.

It also avoids disruptions for the rest of the class and teaches children the value of responsibility and respect for others' time. Being punctual helps create a consistent, positive start to each day and supports overall academic and personal development.



