



BRIDGEWATER
HIGH SCHOOL
LEARNING WITH PRIDE AND JOY

ATTENDANCE BOOKLET

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts





Improving Attendance is Everyone's Business

Improving school attendance requires everyone's involvement.

Attendance is closely linked to academic success, and irregular attendance can negatively impact students' learning, mental health, and resilience.

Missing school, even occasionally, can lead to gaps in essential knowledge.

We are committed to ensuring good attendance through ongoing staff monitoring, communication with parents, and proactive measures to prevent absences.

Our goal is 100% attendance, with a minimum expectation of 97% throughout the school year.

While parents are legally required to send their children to school, frequent absences can make it hard for students to catch up.

We are actively addressing these challenges, especially those related to the pandemic. The government's national campaign highlights the importance of every school day and promotes positive communication between parents, carers, and schools.

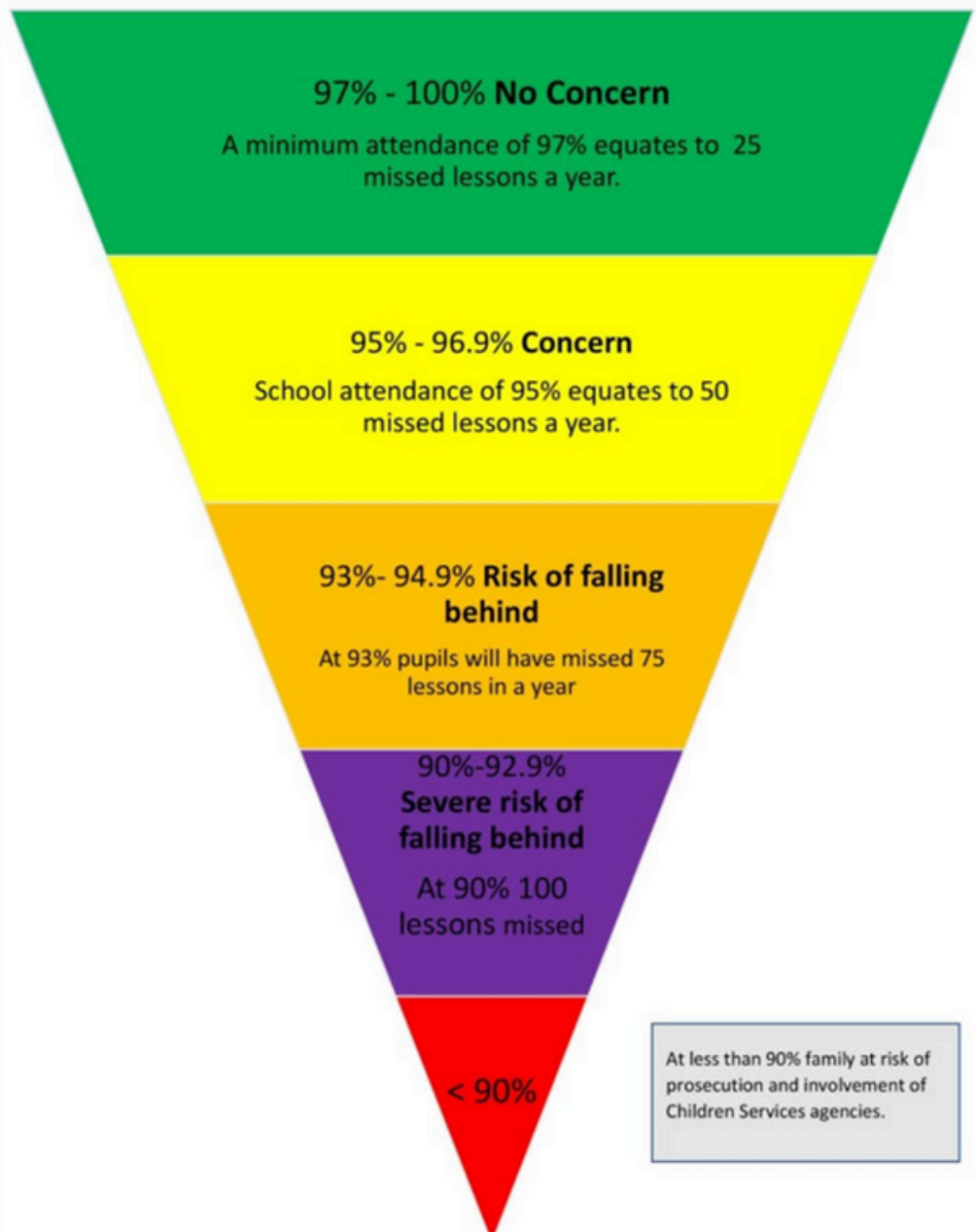
MAKING MOMENTS MATTER TOGETHER



We offer online resources and guidance to support parents, and our staff are ready to help students catch up on missed work.

The 'attendance triangle' highlights when attendance issues arise and details the support available for students with ongoing absences.

Your child's daily attendance record is available on ARBOR. Students review their attendance with tutors during form time. If it drops below 97%, the tutor will monitor it closely. If it doesn't improve, the Year Team and Attendance Officer will provide additional support.





Communicating with each other

Deciding whether to keep your child off school when they're unwell can be challenging. Typically, parents and carers can send their children to school with mild illnesses. However, if you're uncertain, the NHS offers guidance. If your child is dealing with mental health concerns related to attendance, our school is well-equipped to address them. Children can access mental health resources through the school website, and we collaborate with the NHS for additional professional support when needed.

To ensure effective communication, please follow these guidelines:

- Notify the school in advance of any planned or unplanned absences.
- Provide medical evidence (such as texts or letters) to the Pastoral Team.
- If your child is reluctant to attend school, identify the reasons and work with our staff to address concerns.
- If your child avoids specific classes or subjects, discuss this with their Form Tutor.
- Reach out to us for support to prevent avoidance behaviour.
- Reinforce the importance of punctuality and attendance with your child.
- Explore various options for supporting your family and child, both from our staff and external agencies.
- Avoid scheduling doctor or dentist appointments during school hours.
- Refrain from taking holidays during term time, as unauthorised absences may result in penalties under the Education Act 1996.

Useful Websites

Kooth www.kooth.com
YoungMinds www.youngminds.org.uk
DFE—Working Together To Improve Attendance
Mind www.mind.org.uk
Warrington.go.uk [school attendance](http://www.warrington.go.uk)
Action for Children—[How to deal with school refusal](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

Useful Support Videos

[Box Breathing Technique You Tube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
[The '5 Whys' learning from aggressive or anxious meltdowns You Tube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
[4 Ideas for supporting a child with anxiety You Tube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

NHS

[Is my child too ill for school?](https://www.nhs.uk/health-topics/mental-health/young-people/mental-health-problems/mental-health-problems-when-youre-a-parent/)
[UK Health Security Agency: Parents Guide](https://www.nhs.uk/health-topics/mental-health/young-people/mental-health-problems/mental-health-problems-when-youre-a-parent/)

MOMENTS MATTER



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Parents whose children are registered at a school or other educational establishment are then responsible for ensuring that they attend punctually, regularly, stay there as required and follow the school's rules with regard to behaviour. If parent/ carer(s) fail to ensure this, there are a number of options open to the Local Authority and schools to secure an improvement in the child's behaviour and attendance and support parents to achieve this.

A parent's failure to ensure the regular attendance of their child at school is a criminal offence. The LA has the power to prosecute for this offence in the Magistrates' Courts under s444 (1) Level 3 offence or (1A) Level 4 offence of the Education Act 1996. On conviction, parents can be fined up to £1000 (1) or in the case of an "aggravated" offence (1A) they can be fined up to £2500 and may also be liable to a custodial sentence of up to 3 months or a Community Order.

If a parent fails to ensure their child's regular attendance at an alternative provision the LA also has the power to prosecute them in the Magistrates' Courts. In this case the parent must first have been given notice in writing of the requirement of their child to attend the alternative provision.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER



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