
Our aim

We are committed to meeting our obligation with regards to school attendance through our whole school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- *Promoting good attendance*
- *Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence*
- *Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled*
- *Acting early to address patterns of absence*
- *Building strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school*

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

So what's next

In order to address our concern about falling attendance rates, we are introducing a new attendance policy from next term. The focus will be on working with you to ensure your child attends school all the time. We will review every child's attendance regularly and may contact you if your child's attendance rate falls.

Where attendance falls below 96%, we will robustly follow the steps outlined in the new policy and continued poor attendance at school could result in legal sanctions including fines. We very much hope that we can work together to improve attendance and this will not be necessary. As part of the policy, we will contact you each term with updates on your child's attendance rate. Remember, we are aiming for 96% minimum attendance which is the same as a maximum of 1 day of absence each half term.

Fact:

Children who don't achieve the expected standard in their SATs are likely to have missed 4 or more days in school.

Fact:

In 2019, 84% of pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard compared to just 40% of pupils who had 90% or less attendance.

Fact:

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school and gets a full time-education.

Fact:

The government has recently issued new guidance to schools to ensure that they take action where pupil's attendance falls below 90% for any reason.

Fact:

At Shelton, we aim for 96% attendance as a minimum.

Fact:

Attendance at Shelton Juniors is below the national average. We also have more children classed as "persistently absent" (below 90%) than the national average.

Shelton Junior School Attendance Policy

Policy updates and key information.



This is an introduction to our attendance policy;

Why are we concerned about attendance?

We have noticed that we have had an increase in persistent absence within the school and we want to support our pupils to get the most out of their education.

What do we want to achieve?

We want all our pupils to thrive in education and we know that to do this they need to be in school 96% of the time or more.

Why now?

We have spent lots of time supporting children in our school. Doing this has enabled us to collect data and recognize what is needed moving forward. With the same focus as always, our children.

What will we do in school to positively influence attendance?

- Regular weekly updates on Dojo
- New weekly dojo awards 5 Dojo points For 100% attendance. 3 dojos for 90-99%.
- Termly letter confirming your child's attendance
- Attendance notice board on playground
- Attendance trophy for the best class each week
- Termly attendance rewards for the best Attending class in year 3&4 and year 5&6
- Look out for 'Everyday Counts' competitions Where children can get a prize for attending all week

What we can do to help and Support children with attendance issues:

Support available to help families – contact us to discuss.



Roles and responsibilities - who will be supporting the children;

- The governing board
- The head teacher
- The Pastoral Lead
- The Learning Mentor
- Class teachers
- School admin staff
- Parents/carers

Legal sanctions

In the majority of cases, schools and the local authority will try to provide support to help you improve your child's attendance first, but if this isn't effective or the absence is for an unauthorised term time holiday, parents will face paying a fine.

From September 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.
