

Westleigh Methodist Primary School
 'With God, All Things Are Possible - Matthew 19:26'



Attendance Matters

3.3.26

Attendance Is An Issue For Us

Attendance and punctuality is an issue for us at Westleigh Methodist Primary School. We want your child to attend school regularly to support their learning. Poor punctuality is also concerning as children arriving after the register has closed, have a late mark converted to an unauthorised absence. At Westleigh Methodist we monitor attendance of every child and keep parents / carers informed of dips in attendance.

Attendance

Aiming for Above 96%

2025—26 to date...

Whole School **94.1%** (up from Jan)

Rec **93.8%** (up from Jan)

Year 1 **94.1%** (up from Jan)

Year 2 **94.3%** (up from Jan)

Year 3 **90.4%** (up from Jan)

Year 4 **94.1%**

Year 5 **96.9%**

Year 6 **94.5%**

Why Does Attendance Matter?

Attendance is central to:

- Raising standards in education and ensuring all children achieve their potential
- Supporting friendships
- Supporting a child's self-esteem and confidence

Incentives

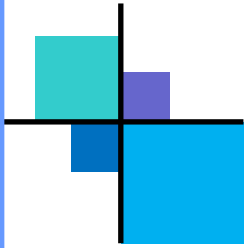
To support improved attendance, we use a range of incentives to celebrate good attendance. These incentives are designed to encourage children and promote a shared understanding of how important it is to be in school every day whenever possible. These include:

- **Weekly rewards** of ice pops for classes achieving at least 96%, highest attending class earns Attendance Ted, individual children having 100% attendance can dress as a superhero!
- **Termly rewards** of a party or disco for those achieving 100%. A new reward of metal badges has also been introduced this year too!

Attendance Targets

The government has set a **target of 96%** attendance for all pupils. This rate allows for periods of illness or particular circumstances when absence from school is unavoidable. It is important to note that children who attend school for less than 96% of the time underperform significantly. **Having chunks of learning missing really disadvantages your child compared to their classmates.**





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Attendance Mentors

We have introduced a new initiative to support our children who are persistently absent—an Attendance Mentor.

This is a trusted adult in school chosen by the child who will motivate and encourage them to attend regularly. They will investigate barriers and offer positive rewards.



What is an Attendance Mentor?

An Attendance Mentor is a dedicated member of staff who works closely with children to:

- Monitor attendance patterns
- Identify challenges early
- Provide encouragement and practical support
- Celebrate improvements and achievements
- Act as a trusted adult for students

Rather than focusing only on attendance percentages, mentors focus on relationships. When students feel seen, heard, and supported, they are more likely to engage fully in school life.

Personalised Support

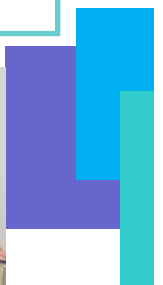
Every child's situation is unique. Attendance Mentors take time to understand individual circumstances and work collaboratively to find solutions.

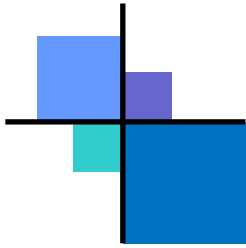
Increased Confidence

Regular check-ins help children build trust and feel more secure. Knowing there is someone rooting for them each day can make a powerful difference.

Attendance Link Governor

A new link governor role has been introduced to support school with attendance and punctuality issues. Mrs Robinson regularly meets us to discuss concerns and to support the school in making improvements.





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Persistent Absence (Below 90%)

It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is PERSISTENT ABSENCE. Failing to improve on 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid. Letters are sent to inform families of attendance dipping below this figure. We offer help with a range of support strategies. This may be help from the school nurse, our school's Pastoral Manager, the Local Authority Attendance Team and the Early Help Team.



Miss Sumner,
our Pastoral
Manager

The Real Impact of Attendance Below 90%

Although 90% sounds reasonably good, it means your child misses:

- One half day each week
- Nearly 4 weeks of school every year

190 days (in each academic year)	180 days attended	178 days attended	171 days attended (more than 18 days absence)
100% Best chance of success!	95%	94%	90%

Your Child's Attendance Record

A copy of your child's attendance record is available on request from the school office and a copy will be provided with your child's annual report in the summer term.

How Can I Help To Improve My Child's Attendance?

There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category:

- Keep up with the attendance percentage of your child
- Speak to school staff about any concerns
- Take family holidays outside term time
- Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important you feel it is
- Wherever possible, make medical and dental appointments outside school hours or during school holidays.

