



Ysgol Afon Wen Attendance Overview



Why is attendance important?

- School attendance really matters and is everybody's business
 - School is the safest place a child can be during school hours
 - Regular school attendance has a strong impact on pupil progress
 - Regular attendance leads to greater preparation for life the workplace
 - Analysis shows that pupils with higher attendance do better in exams
 - Lessons missed means missing key information, skills and ideas.
 - Good attendance has a positive effect on wellbeing, friendships and social skills.
 - Extended absence from school is linked with behavioural and social problems.
- These effects can be long lasting and can affect a young person's mental health and their long-term life chances.
- Absences can start a negative cycle; the longer the absence, the harder it is to resolve the issues that may be leading to absence.

What are parents' and carers' responsibilities?

- Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school. Every child is entitled to an efficient, full-time education, and it is the legal responsibility of every parent and carer to ensure their child accesses this
- There are a very small number of reasons where a child may legally be absent from school: 1) where permission is given in advance, 2) where they are too ill to attend
- Please promote the importance of attendance and school at home
- Always contact the School if your child is not able to attend school on 01443 841228 or report via Class Charts
- Promptly discuss any concerns with us so we can support you and your child
- Do not take holidays in term time
- Attendance often falls at the end of terms. Please ensure that your children attend up until and including the final day before a holiday

What is good attendance?

- 96% attendance is our school target
- Below 90% attendance is classed as Persistent Absence and is a cause for concern
- 95% attendance – you will have missed nearly 10 days from school, 2 weeks, 50 hours of lessons.
- 90% attendance = you will have missed nearly 20 days from school, 4 weeks, 100 hours of lessons.
- 80% attendance = you will have missed nearly 40 days from school, 8 weeks, 200 hours of lessons.
- Attendance above 96% of school leads to better progress, stronger friendships and greater levels of wellbeing
- There are 365 days a year. Pupils are in school for 190 days, meaning pupils have 175 days without school each year. Every day of those 190 counts!

How can school support attendance?

- We make attendance high profile across the school. We track attendance on a weekly basis. We share attendance with pupils, parents / carers regularly
- Promptly discuss any concerns with us so we can support you and your child
- The school can provide mentoring, set targets, give Hub or early passes, plan meet and greets, offer peer support, support access to extra-curricular clubs, provide quiet spaces and create Personal Attendance Plans.
- School can provide a variety of in-house wellbeing and mental health interventions
- If further support is needed, we can refer to ELSA, YEPS, Eye2Eye, the School Nurse or The Hive (our onsite ALN provision)
- In the most complex cases, school can refer to our Family Engagement Officer and develop a Pastoral Support Plan to improve attendance.
- Some cases may need involvement from the Educational Psychologist or Attendance and Wellbeing Service

