

Attendance at NLPS



Wednesday 26th June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support so far this year with your child's attendance. Many of our children have outstanding attendance and those that are in school more often have the best changes to succeed. We also appreciate that there are children in different contexts who are in school as often as they can be and have worked with us to try to increase this.

There has been a new guidance document released by the Department for Education, that we have to follow, that will be in place from September 1st 2024. Please see the next page for more information. For information about attendance at our school, please see the information below.

At Newton Leys Primary and Nursery, attending school for as many days as possible is important to us. It not only has a huge academic impact but also supports your children's social, physical, emotional and psychological development. During the school day, the children will have more than 4 different lessons which build on each other from previous lessons and enable the children to develop the knowledge they need for the following lessons. They also have the opportunity to socialise with their friends, further developing the bonds that they have with their peers and learning how to develop and make new friendships.

However, if pupil's attendance falls below 93%, we will inform the parents/carers with a letter stating their attendance and offering support if any is required. We will take contextual factors into account but will still inform you of the attendance. The NHS link <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> is also useful if you are not sure whether your child should attend with some illnesses if they are feeling better.

If pupils attendance continues to fall and is then 90% or lower, we will inform you with a letter offering support but we may also state that any further illnesses will require a note from a medical professional in the form of a stamp or letters. We may invite you in to school for a meeting to see what we can do to support you with your child's attendance and agree some actions to help improve this. If children's attendance doesn't improve beyond this or continues to fall, we may have to refer this to Milton Keynes Council and you may face legal action to raise your child's attendance at school.

We are required to follow National and Local guidance, and as such, we will not be able to authorise any holidays and these will be marked as unauthorised absences. This may incur a Fixed Penalty Notice charge. **There have been some changes to fixed penalty notices in Government guidance. For more information, see the next page.**

These approaches are always a last resort and we value and appreciate the relationships we have with our community. If you feel there is anything we can do to support your child's attendance, please contact us and we can plan a way forward.

Fixed penalty notices—Changes from September 1st 2024

From September 1st, 2024, The Government guidance on Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) are changing. If you are issued a FPN for taking your child out of school for an unauthorised absence that triggers a FPN (for example a holiday) the cost of the FPN is increasing to £160 per parent, per child. This is reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

If a second FPN is issued within a rolling 3 year period from the first FPN, this will be charged at a flat rate of £160 per parent, per child.

A third FPN can't be issued within 3 years of the first. In this instance, alternative legal interventions will be considered by the Local Authority including prosecution or other attendance level interventions.

It is important to note that the school will not authorise holiday requests during school time as we are required to follow the DFE guidance.

Please see the DFE guidance document that can be found on the link below for further information.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/>

[Working together to improve school attendance applies from 19 August 2024 .pdf](#)

The importance of school attendance

Attendance between	95.9% - 93%	92.9% - 90%	80% - 89.9% Persistent Absence	Below 80% Persistent or severely persistent absence.
Information	Children are at risk of falling behind. Children below 95.7% attendance are less likely to meet the expected standard at the end of KS2 than their peers.	Children are missing, on average, almost 1 day for every 2 weeks which can equate to around 5 lessons a fortnight. They are at risk of becoming persistently absent.	Children are missing on average more than 1 day every 2 weeks and up to a day each week equating to (up to) 5 lessons a week.	Children are at serious risk of their attendance impacting on their development.