

Attendance at NLPS



September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support since we returned to school. It has been lovely to see the children's smiles as they come into school in the morning. Our aim for this year is to be above the national and Milton Keynes' averages for attendance this year which will benefit all of our children. Our attendance last year was 94.4% which was slightly below the national average. We know that there were many factors involved last year, particularly with the number of children who had their first bout of chickenpox but we are hopeful that this year, we can keep our children's attendance high, where possible, to ensure all of our children get the best education possible.

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. We also have a class with the highest attendance award each week with a big trophy for the winning class in KS1 and KS2 to display.

However, if pupil's attendance falls below 96%, 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 or in recurring cases, possible prosecution. **Please note the guidance that we have to follow regarding holidays during term time on 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

Since September 1st, 2024, The Government guidance on Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) have changed. 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.