

# Longfield

## Information for Parents / Carers

### Attendance and Punctuality

There is a clear link between attendance and attainment. It seems very obvious that pupils who are good attenders succeed far better than those whose attendance is poor. Every day your child is absent impacts upon their education and opportunities in adult life. At Longfield, we continue to strive to improve attendance and punctuality.

### Raise Your Child's Attendance

#### Raise Their Chances



What does "Good Attendance" mean?

Do you know what your child's attendance is?



This is Emily. She is in Year 7 and she has 90% attendance.



Is that good?

What does it mean?

Emily thinks this is pretty good and so do her parents. *Are they correct?*

FACT

*90% attendance = ½ day missed every week!*

How would your boss feel about you being off that much?

FACT

*If Emily's attendance stayed at 90% for the whole year, she would miss out on 4 full weeks of learning!*

*Over 5 years at Longfield, she would miss:*

**half a school year!**

What impact might this have on Emily's life?

FACT

*Research shows that a 10% drop in attendance (20 days absence in a school year) is the equivalent to a drop in one grade at GCSE!*

**The greater the attendance, the greater the achievement!**



## The Link between Attendance and Attainment

Attendance %	Number of days absent in one year	Chances of achieving 5A*-C
100%	0	90%+
95%	10	82%
92.5%	15	72%
<b>90%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45%</b>
85%	30	25%
80%	40	5%

What could Emily's potential earnings look like?



Money can't buy you happiness. However, research has shown that qualifications can have an impact on your hourly rate of pay:

	£
With a degree	16.10
Higher Education	12.60
A Levels	10.00
GCSE grades A* - C	8.68
Other qualification	8.07
No qualification	6.93

**What do you want for your child?**

**So ..... 90% attendance is not as good as it first seemed!**



## The Importance of Punctuality

### **Arriving on time to registration is crucial:**

*"It's not like in my day when you just had to turn up, shout 'HERE' when your name was called and then chat to your friends. Nowadays, tutor-time is more like a mini-lesson. It's a very valuable time of the school day"*

### **Arriving on time to lessons is also crucial:**

**This is Tom**



Tom wastes 6 minutes of every lesson every day

↓  
If there are 5 lessons each day and each lesson lasts one hour, this means that every day he is missing out on 10% of his learning

↓  
If there are 10 sessions a week, that means he misses out on one full session a week

↓  
If there are 10 weeks in a term, he misses out on 1 whole week per term

↓  
If there are 3 terms each year he misses out on 3 weeks a year which is equivalent to having 90% attendance

↓  
In 5 years at Longfield, Tom would miss:

**Half a school year!**



Late to school

=



Late to lessons

=



Late to work

**Stop this habit now!**

## What can I do as a parent / carer to increase my child's attendance?



### Ways for Parents / Carers to Encourage Attendance

- Regularly check your child's attendance. Attendance data is on school reports. You can also email or phone us at any time during the school year.
- Speak regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. If there are any problems which might affect attendance, speak to us about it.
- Only grant days at home for **genuine** illness. You will know when they are not well enough to attend!
- If your child complains of feeling 'under the weather' on a morning, encourage them to come into school. Our Pastoral Team will contact you if they feel he / she is too unwell to remain in school. You can then decide if you wish to collect them.
- Don't take holidays in term time.
- Keep us informed. Always phone school by 9am to tell school why your child is absent and send written confirmation when they return.
- Avoid medical appointments during the school day. If this is not possible, ensure your child returns to school as soon as their appointment is finished so that they do not miss lessons unnecessarily. In the majority of cases medical appointments do not require a full session of absence.
- Know the routines of the school day and avoid issues. For example, have they got their PE kit ready? Do they have a clean uniform? Have they done their homework? Encourage them to pack their school bags the night before.
- Make sure they eat breakfast and have money for lunch.
- Be watchful and supportive in the run up to tests and be aware of coursework deadlines.
- Look for patterns. Are there any specific days when your child feels ill? Are they avoiding a certain lesson?
- Encourage them to catch up on missed work. If they have been working on a topic they may find the class has moved on by the time they return. This can cause anxiety and it can also affect self-confidence.
- After a period of absence students sometimes feel left out of friendship groups. Talk to your child and if there are any problems, let us know.
- Praise and reward good attendance and punctuality at home. Students with good attendance receive rewards in school and are allowed to take part in school trips.
- Work in partnership with school, instilling in your child respect for school's policies and procedures.

There is always a reason for poor attendance. Talk to your child about any issues they might have and inform school.

**KEY MESSAGE:**

- **Your child only has one chance at school**
- **Every day counts. Every lesson counts**
- **Missing odd days becomes a habit**
- **Don't let your child miss out**
- **Good attendance and punctuality = higher grades**
- **Good attendance and punctuality = better chances in life**



**FACT**

*If a school can improve attendance by 1% they will see a 5.6% improvement in attainment (DFES)*

**Attend and Achieve**

Please help us and your child by ensuring their attendance remains above 95%. Anything below 95% is unacceptable in Longfield.

Help your child to achieve their full potential. We want them to be happy and feel safe in school.

It's a tough world out there!

Let's work together to make sure they are ready for it!



Thank you for your continued support!