



Keyworth Primary and Nursery School

unlocking every child's potential

20th February 2019

Dear Parents,

You are probably aware that we are working hard with families at KPNS to ensure all children regularly attend school and, as a result, make good progress with their studies. All families have received a letter this term detailing their child's attendance rates – another will be sent at Easter. Thank you for your support with this which is already leading to some children making big improvements with school attendance.

To help us better understand how we can support families in this area, we have made a change to how you should request leave from school. From Monday 25th February 2019, if you want to request that your child be absent from school due to exceptional circumstances (see below), please contact school to discuss this with Mr Cresswell, Mrs Holmes or Mrs King. There will no longer be a form to complete – all requests for absence should now be made in person.

The list of acceptable reasons for keeping your child off school can be found below. Only in 'exceptional circumstances' can children be taken out of school:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family
4. Out of school programmes such as music, arts or sport operating at a high standard of achievement
5. Religious observance – The Education Act 1996 S444(3)(c) states "on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his/her parent belongs"
6. To attend a wedding, funeral or 'special' family event

Examples of circumstances **not** considered as exceptional are:

- 1) Holidays abroad for the purpose of visiting a sick relative (except where that person is seriously ill)
- 2) Holidays taken in term time due to lower cost/parental work commitments

Please see the school website, under 'SICKNESS AND ABSENCE' for information about how fines may be used where a pupil's absence from school is unacceptable.

If you have any queries about the above then please do contact school to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Peter Cresswell, Executive Headteacher

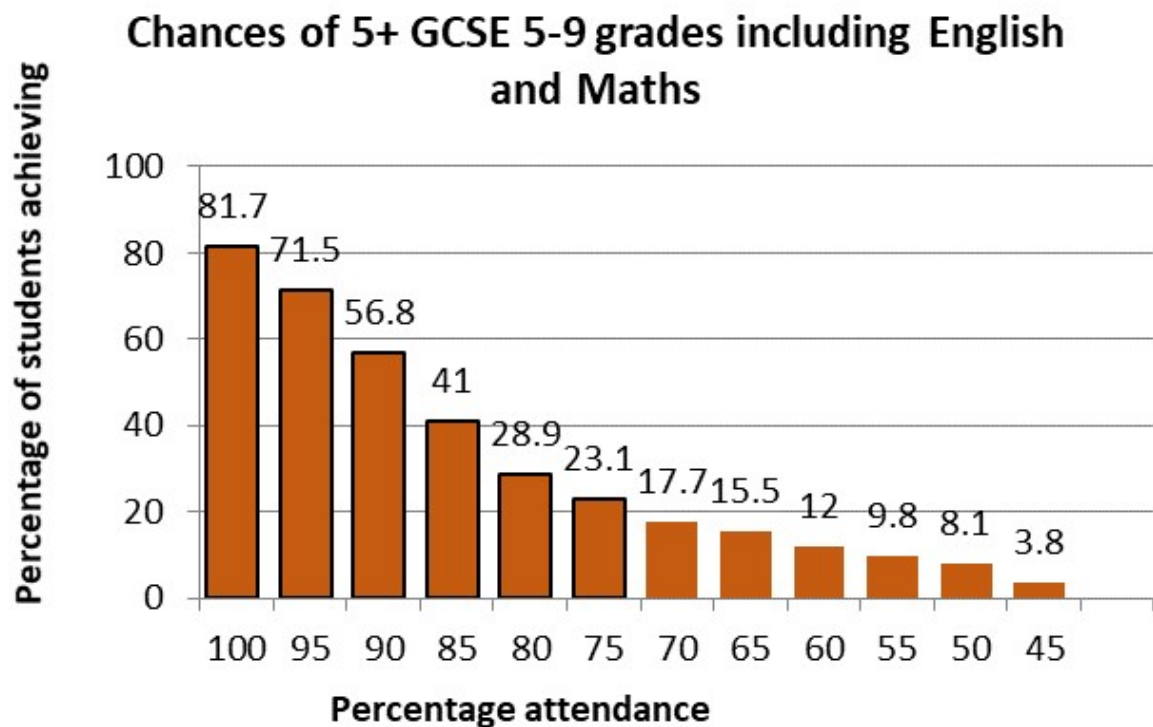
Impact of Poor Attendance

In March 2016 the Department for Education (DfE) published a report on the link between absence and attainment in schools.

The report states that in primary school, pupils with very good attendance are over 300% more likely to achieve the highest marks in tests at the end of Y6.

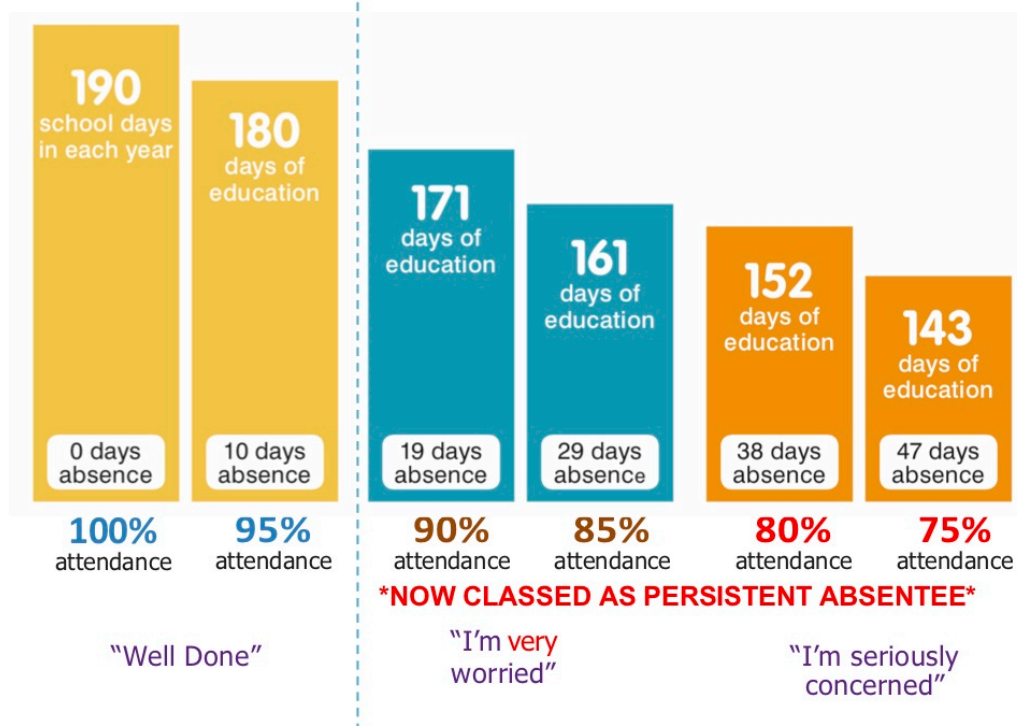
At secondary school:

- 82% of pupils with 100% attendance achieve 5+ A*-C GCSEs
- 72% pupils with 95% attendance achieve 5+ A*-C GCSEs
- 57% pupils with 90% attendance achieve 5+ A*-C GCSEs
- 41% pupils with 85% attendance achieve 5+ A*-C GCSEs



Good attendance means...

Being in school at least 95% of the time
or 180 to 190 days ...



Best chance of success

Poor attendance—less
chance of success

Very poor attendance—
serious impact on
education and reduces
life chances

There are
365 days in
a calendar
year

175 days
are not spent
at school
So there's plenty of
time for shopping,
holidays and
appointments

Did you know? A two week holiday in term
time means that the highest attendance a
child can achieve is 94.7%

