



**SOLIHULL EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE**  
**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE**

# *Attendance Matters*



***For further information contact:***

***Solihull Education Welfare Service***  
***Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council***  
***Lundy View Smith's Wood Solihull B36 0LY***  
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# Attendance Matters

## Truancy Watch

Staff from the Education Welfare Service, together with colleagues from the Police, are asking parents/carers why their children are not in school today.

This initiative is part of a wider Government plan to reduce truancy, street crime and the fear of crime.

All young people deserve the best possible start in life. Regular attendance at school is the first step in helping young people to get the most from life.

Information given regarding your child's absence will be passed on to the school they attend.

## Don't be late....

A pupil arriving late into school may have missed opportunities to start the day in a relaxed, enjoyable manner and possibly some explanations about work set for the lesson.

The link between attendance and success in school is clear: the more a pupil is in school the greater their opportunity to fulfil their potential.

## Family Holidays

It may surprise you to learn that parents/carers have no legal right to take children out of school for a family holiday.

However, schools do have the discretionary power to grant up to 10 days leave, during term time, in any one year.

If you intend to take your child out of school for a holiday, you should discuss this with your child's school beforehand.

Things that should be considered when you make a holiday request:

- Your child's overall pattern of attendance.
- The likely impact on your child's education.
- Does your planned holiday clash with any exams?

## The Law

*You are legally responsible for:*

- Ensuring your child receives full time education.
- Ensuring that your child attends school regularly.

*You can meet your legal responsibilities, and give your child a helping hand, by:*

- Ensuring that your child attends school every day.
- Making sure your child leaves for school with plenty of time to arrive on time.
- Supporting and encouraging your child in school by attending parents' evenings and other events.
- Making appointments for your child to visit the doctor (except in urgent cases), dentist or optician outside of school hours.
- Informing school on the first day of absences due to illness.
- Providing a note for the school when your child returns after an illness.

*In highly exceptional circumstances parents may consider taking their child(ren) out of the country for extended periods. If you are considering an extended period of leave abroad you must make appropriate educational arrangements with the school.*