



# How parents/carers can help their child have good attendance

**Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.**

- Make sure your child arrives at school on time, every day.
- Show an interest, attend school events and ask about what your child is doing at school.
- Encourage your child to take part in school activities.
- Don't let your child take time off school for minor ailments.
- Where possible, make appointments after school, at weekends or during school holidays. Remember, a morning appointment does not mean a whole day of absence. Bring your child back to school in the afternoon.
- Take family holidays during school holiday time only.
- Encourage your child to tell you about any problems they may have at school. Find out regularly your child's attendance and absence record.
- Acknowledge, praise and reward good or improved attendance, even small successes.

"Young children don't play truant from school, they are off because their parents allow it."

**Charlie Taylor**  
Government's expert advisor on  
attendance and behaviour