ATTENDANCE
It is well known that good school attendance affects a child’s success in learning and helps to fulfil their potential and give a chance of a better future.

Every day your child is absent from school is an opportunity missed. Schools and parents have a shared responsibility to ensure that your children attend school regularly.

PUNCTUALITY
Woodchurch CE Primary School starts at 8.45am every morning. It is essential that your child is in the classroom by 8.45am. The gate is open from 8.30am. Parents of children who are persistently late could face legal action.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL
If your child is absent from school you need to:
- Contact the school on (01233) 860232 before 9am.
- Give the reason for absence.
- Give the day you expect your child will return to school.

Phoning school to say your child is absent does not authorise the absence. As a school we need the specific reason for the absence so we can decide if it is an authorised or unauthorised absence.

TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM
Woodchurch CE Primary is working closely with the Local Authority School Liaison Officer. As a result we are putting new procedures into place. These include a Traffic Light System and Project 96.

Attendance at 96% or above = Green (safety zone)
The government standard for good attendance is 96% or above. Fantastic work if you are in the green.

Attendance between 90.1% and 95.9% = Amber (At risk zone)
This is considered to be the "at risk zone". If you are in the amber, please be aware that your child’s attendance is below the standard set by the government. As a school, we may ask you to enter into Project 96 to support you in improving your child's attendance. We will also monitor your child’s attendance. We may discuss your child’s attendance with the Local Authority School Liaison Officer. If you need support with your child’s attendance, please contact the school.

Attendance below 90% = Red (Danger zone)
If your child’s attendance falls below 90% your child’s attendance will be referred directly to the Local Authority Liaison Officer and both the school and the LA will be working closely with your family to improve the attendance. Your child’s attendance will be closely monitored along with any absences. If there is no improvement in your child’s attendance, you could be prosecuted.

Please be aware that both authorised and unauthorised absences are included to find your child’s attendance percentage.

Having 90% attendance means that your child is absent from school for half a day a week on average.

Having 80% or lower attendance means that your child is missing on average at least one day of school every week.

HOLIDAYS
A week’s holiday taken during term-time is over 50 lessons missed.

In 2013, the Department of Education changed the legislation relating to holidays during term-time. The new legislation does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term-time. All schools in the country are unable to authorise any holidays taken in term-time unless they are under exceptional circumstances.

www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence

The Governors of Woodchurch CE Primary School have decided that from September 2015, 10 or more unauthorised absences over a school year (including holidays) will mean that parents can be fined by the Local Authority.
HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD GET THE BEST OUT OF SCHOOL?

Be aware of the impact of regular absences – missing school is missing out.

Make sure your child arrives at school on time.

Do not let your child stay off for reasons like going shopping, birthdays, holidays with friends.

Avoid taking family holidays in term-time.

Try to make non-urgent medical and dental appointments out of school time.

Be involved with your child’s education and school – ask questions.

Build up good habits of punctuality and attendance.

Keep your child off school in accordance with infection control guidelines (contact the school if you are unsure) but send them back as soon as they are better, even if it’s only for one day - every day counts.

GOOD ATTENDANCE

At Woodchurch CE Primary School, we like to acknowledge children that do well and follow the school rules. Good attendance and punctuality give the children the chance to receive prizes and house points. We also have rewards for children that have 100% attendance.

WHY IS GOOD ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

The law states all children aged 5-16 must receive a suitable full-time education.

With high attendance your child gets the chance to make friends and learns to get on with others. Communication skills are vital for your child’s development.

Research shows students with less than 90% attendance do dramatically less well in public examinations.

Employers will want to be sure that the people they recruit are reliable. Children who have a poor school attendance record have less chance of getting a job.

Young people who are off school for no good reason are at risk of becoming victims of crime or abuse. They may also be drawn into anti-social behaviour.

Children who don’t come to school regularly will be at risk of not achieving their full potential.

Parents of children with poor attendance can be prosecuted.

If you are facing any difficulty with your child’s attendance or punctuality please don’t hesitate to contact Miss Harrington (Headteacher), Mrs Dawes (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Mewburn (FLO) on 01233 860232.