

It's only one day—it doesn't really matter!

Think of school attendance like a 100 piece jigsaw puzzle.

97% attendance means 3 pieces are missing— you can tell what the whole picture is but it lacks some detail and isn't complete

94% attendance means 6 pieces are missing. At this point more important details are missing, Some of this will be very important and mean the piece next to it isn't firmly in place—just like learning. If you miss learning how to multiply by 10 what happens when it comes to multiplying by 100? You get stuck and don't progress.

90% attendance or less means that the jigsaw has 10+ pieces missing. It becomes harder to make, fitting pieces together takes longer and more brain power. The picture makes far less sense, it falls apart easily and is spoilt forever.

Additional Help

If you have any questions or require further information regarding your child's absence or taking holidays during term time, please telephone Mr Newman, Headteacher on 01773 528492 or email info@riddings-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Useful Links

www.derbyshire.gov.uk

www.direct.gov.uk

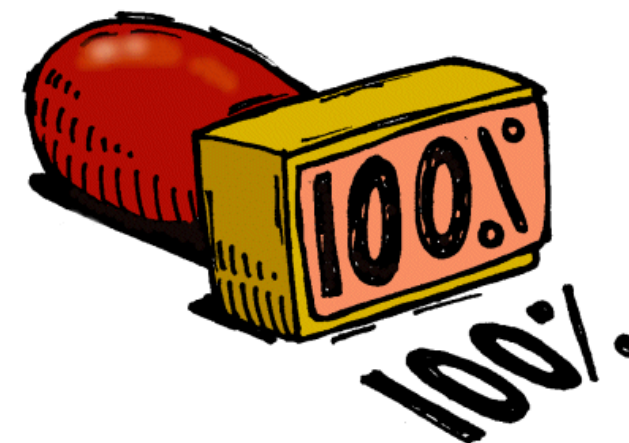
www.riddingsjuniorschool.org.uk/attendance/

175 days to be with friends and family	38 days of school missed	80%	PERSISTENT ABSENCE—A CASE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN
	29 days of school missed	85%	
	19 days of school missed	Below 90%	
190 school days a year	10 days of school missed	Below 97%	ABSENCE CAUSING CONCERN
	6 days of school missed	97%	GOOD
	190 school days in each year	100%	OUTSTANDING



**RIDDINGS
JUNIOR SCHOOL**

2025-2026 School Attendance Information for Parents and Carers



Introduction

Going to school regularly is vitally important to your child's future. Good attendance shows that as parents we recognise the value of education.

Data shows that children who miss school fall behind and make far less progress. Where a child has difficulties with learning (SEN) or qualify for Pupil Premium poor attendance damages their chances even more.

It is the primary years where good habits are set - children who have poor attendance at Junior school miss even more learning as they get older.

Our school attendance target for every child is

at least 97%.

What you can do to help

At Primary school attendance is down to parents and carers. You make the decisions about whether a day is missed so make sure your child understands the importance of attendance and punctuality.

Take an active interest in your child's education - ask about learning and encourage them to learn at home.

Discuss issues they feel they may have at school - tell their class teacher about anything serious and don't always take what they say at face value.

Don't let your child take time off school for minor things like a cold or tummy ache - if they are truly poorly we will send them home.

Arrange appointments after school, at weekends or in the school holidays. This stops disturbing your child's learning.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

If your child is absent and school does not receive an explanation from you or considers the explanation unsatisfactory, it will record your child's absence as 'unauthorised'. Frequent unauthorised absences will result in a you being required to attend an Attendance Panel meeting.

Attendance and the Law

By law, all children of school age must receive a suitable full-time education. For most this means at a school. Once your child is registered at a school, you are **legally responsible** for making sure they attend **regularly (97%) and on time**.

Attendance at most schools has fallen since the pandemic and it is both of our responsibilities to make sure that this doesn't continue. We owe it to the children to give them the best chances of making a success of school.

- ◆ Children whose attendance is below 94% are monitored.
- ◆ Children whose attendance falls below 90% are seen as persistent absentees and this is addressed through meetings at school and through the Attendance Panels.

Attendance Panels

This is a formal meeting held to discuss the reasons for non-attendance and how the situation will be improved. A target will be set for school attendance over the next 30 days.

If the target is reached this is celebrated—if it is not then the next step may involve the parent being taken to court and prosecuted.

Leave of Absence in term time

Parents are reminded of education regulations, 2014 which makes parents responsible for their children attending school regularly (97%) and on time.

As Head teacher I will only authorise a leave of absence if there are **truly exceptional circumstances**.

Holidays taken in term time will not be authorised and will result in a referral to the Local Authority for the issue of a penalty notice (fine). These are issued to each parent/carer of the child and for each individual child.

Parents who wish for their children to have time off school should complete the Leave of Absence / Exceptional Circumstances Request Form, the form is available from the school office or on the website.

Parents who, in schools' view, take their children on holiday without permission will incur unauthorised absences. Whilst some may take the view that days off school will not harm their child's education we take the opposite view, however, we do expect families to be honest about the choice they have taken rather than hide the truth and ask their children to lie.