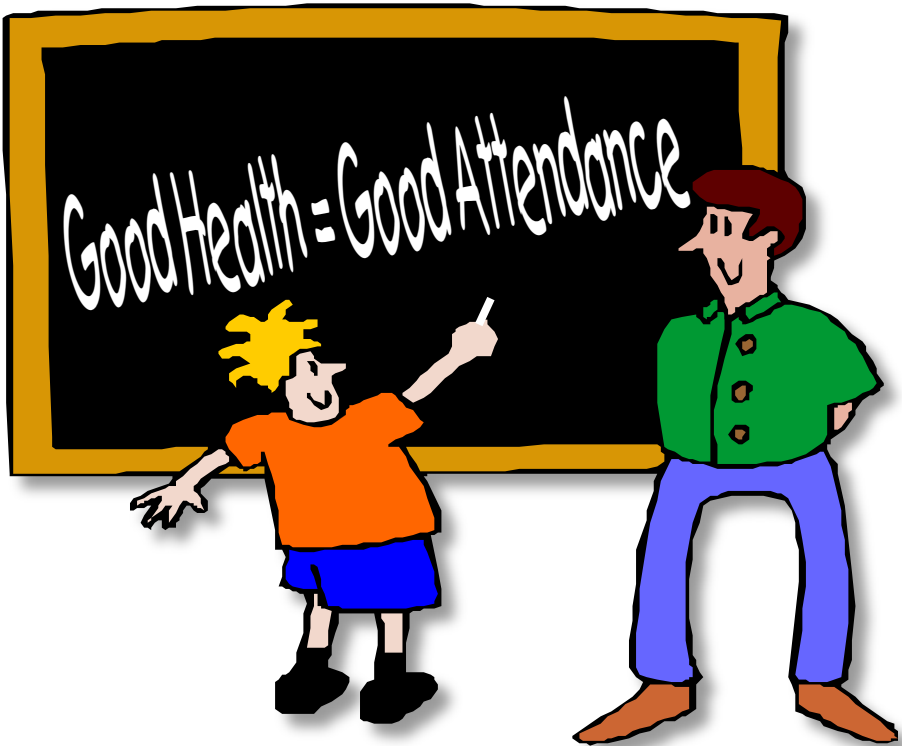


City of Bradford MDC

www.bradford.gov.uk

Every School Day Counts!



Children's Services
The Education Social Work Service

www.educationbradford.com

www.bradford.gov.uk

Too Poorly To Attend?



In 2010 over a quarter of a million school days were lost in Bradford Primary Schools due to **authorised** absence.

The main reason children are absent from school is due to illness

Keeping healthy so your child is able to attend school more regularly is an important part of your child's life. All children should be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being.

Parents can also help by ensuring their children stay healthy by taking exercise, getting enough sleep and eating a healthy diet.

Good Common Sense

Use good common sense when deciding whether your child needs to stay at home. Work on the basis that sick children belong at home and well children belong in school

Please remember that early morning aches and pains often pass, so don't keep your child at home 'just in case' when they could be learning in class.. If you are not sure, check the guidance in this leaflet or for further advice contact your doctor or the school nurse.

Is my child well enough to attend school?

Raised temperature

If your child looks or feels shivery, unusually cold or hot, they may have a raised temperature. This may be due to a variety of reasons. If your child has a raised temperature, they should not be in school.

However, your child should be able to return to school 24 hours after they feel and look better.

Cold and Cough

A child may attend school with a minor cold or cough.

However, children with bad or long-lasting coughs need to stay at home. When the cough is disappearing and the child is feeling better, they need to return to school.

Rashes

A rash is the first sign of one of childhood's many illnesses, such as chicken pox or measles. The rash or 'spots' may cover the entire body or just appear in one area.

Do not send your child to school with an unexplained rash or skin eruption until you have consulted a doctor.

Minor aches and pains

If your child has a persistent tooth or ear ache, they need to see a dentist or doctor without delay.

A child whose only complaint is a minor headache does not normally need to be kept at home.

Is my child well enough to attend school?

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

If you think your child has meningitis, seek help from your doctor or hospital immediately.

If vomiting occurs, keep your child at home until they are able to keep food down. A child with diarrhoea should also be kept at home.

Consult your doctor if your child does not improve as you expect.

Sore throat

If your child complains of a slight sore throat and has no other symptoms, they are fit to go to school.

If a sore throat occurs with a raised temperature, they need to stay at home.

If your child has got a health problem such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, or suffers from allergies there is no reason your child can not go to school and enjoy a normal everyday school life like other children.

Socialising with children of their own age and with adults is an important part of any child's mental, physical and emotional development.

Most health problems can be managed in school with help.

School Nurses

School Nurses are there to help you. All schools have a designated school nursing team with whom you, your child or the teachers can access the support or advice on any medical condition. School Nurses can also direct you to the services that will help your child.

School Nurses provide a health and advice service which is available to you and your child from the first day they start school. School Nurses work all year round so if you need help or advice in the holiday they are there for you to contact.

Information on how to contact your School Nurse can be found at the back of this leaflet.

Good Health = Good Attendance

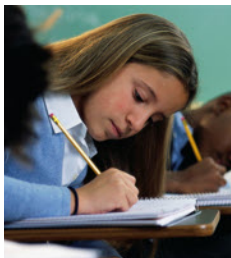
Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.

We believe that children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:-

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Become involved in antisocial behaviour

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age will also help your child later on. Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

What is 'Good Attendance'?



Samantha is in Year 5. Her attendance is always around 90%
Samantha's mum thinks that is pretty good!

So what does 90% attendance look like?

90% attendance means she is absent from school for the equivalent of one half day every week

Mon		Tues		Wed		Thurs		Fri	

In Year 5 Samantha's 90% attendance rate means she has missed the equivalent of FOUR weeks in school

Sept										July

If Samantha continues to attend for only 90% of the time, in her 6 years in primary school she will miss more than half a year of education

	Sept									July
Year 1										
Year 2										
Year 3										
Year 4										
Year 5										
Year 6										

Over half a year's education missed!!

Is 90% attendance good enough?

What parents can do to help??



Ensure your child attends school everyday and on time



If your child is not well enough to attend contact the school on the first day of absence



Try to make dental and medical appointments outside of school time or at weekends



Take family holidays during the school holiday - if this is not possible you **must** ask permission from the school



Try to attend parents evenings and school events



Talk to your child about school and take an interest in the work that they are doing



Contact your child's school immediately if you have any concerns about their progress or welfare

Every School Day Counts

Contact information

Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Children's Services
Education Social Work Service
Future House
Bolling Road
Bradford
BD4 7EB
Tel. 01274 385761

All schools in Bradford and Airedale have a Named School Nurse and their contact details can be obtained from your child's school or they can be contacted at their main bases, see below for full details.

Holmewood Health Centre	01274 322332
Horton Park Health Centre	01274 228993
Bingley Canalside Health Care Centre	01274 221055
Ilkley Health Centre	01943 608118
Shipley Health Centre	01274 595611
Westbourne Green Health Centre	01274 202516
The Ridge Medical Practice	01274 425681
Haworth Road Medical Centre	01274 544814
Keighley Millennium Business Park	01535 338747
Barkerend Health Centre	01274 228076
Community Nurses Children with Special Needs in Special Schools Children's Community Specialist Services	01274 202783

Children's Services wish to thank the Bradford School Nurse Service and Kingston Education Welfare Service for their assistance in producing this leaflet