

Continued ...

- Students whose attendance falls below 90% will be seen by their head of year/tutor and will be set targets to improve their attendance. At this stage a meeting may be arranged to discuss concerns and issues with parents.
- Those students whose attendance falls under 85% may be referred to the Dorset County Council Attendance Team who also set targets for improved attendance and give support to help achieve these. There is a risk that legal action may be taken if attendance fails to improve.

Holidays during term time.

Taking your child out of school for 2 weeks (10 school days) will reduce his/her attendance to 94% before taking into account any time off for illness.

Gillingham School will only agree holidays in *truly exceptional* circumstances. If the school refuses a request for term time leave and the student is still taken out of school, this is recorded as unauthorised absence.

Research suggests that students who are taken out of school for holidays seldom catch up on work missed.



STOP and think. Your attendance has dropped under 90% - Your head of year or tutor will be discussing this with you!

Your attendance is between 90-95%. A couple more days off and you could be in the red.

Well done! Your attendance is 95% or above, keep up the good work.

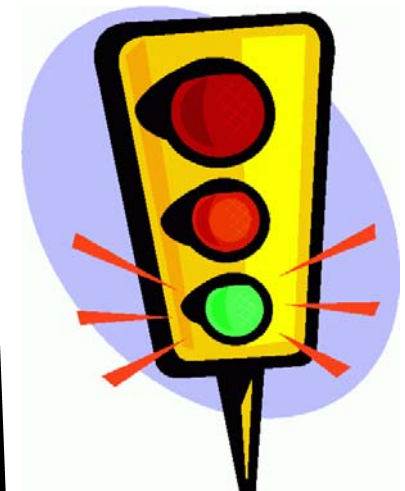


You can speak to us at any time if you have worries or concerns about attendance on 01747 833846.

Gillingham School



Traffic Light Attendance



Guidelines for parents and students

▶ The importance of good attendance

Results from research have confirmed that low attendance at school impacts negatively on students' attainment and their future life chances.

90% attendance might sound like an acceptable figure but in reality it means:

- On average half a day of school missed every week .
- In one year , 6 whole weeks of schooling missed, 192 lessons.
- A GCSE grade drop in attainment in each subject.

The better the attendance, the greater the achievement and the more choices a student will have beyond GCSE exams.

- If a student is absent for less than one day a month, they have an 87% chance of getting 5 GCSE grades of C or above.
- If a student is absent for an average of one day a fortnight, this drops to a 75% chance.
- If a student is absent once a week or more, they only have a 20% chance of achieving 5 GCSE grades of C or above.



Poor attendance in the 6th form has a similar effect on A level grades achieved.

▶ Why attendance is a priority

Habits of poor attendance and lateness at school are often repeated in working life.



Future employers, colleges and universities ask schools to provide attendance and punctuality records as part of a reference.



By improving our attendance rate we will improve the success rates of our students and provide them with better chances in life. This coming year we aim to raise our attendance rate again and can only do that with your full support.



▶ What parents can do to help.

- Ring the absence line on **01747 822222** on the first morning of absence and keeping us up to date on continued absence.
- Talk to your son/daughter about good attendance and how it can affect their future.
- Try to keep medical appointments where possible outside of the school day. Please inform the school well in advance if this is not possible.
- Only allow days at home for genuine illness. You know your child ... will they be feeling better 2 minutes after the school bus has left?
- Do not take your son/daughter on holiday during term time (see over).

- Use the traffic light system to help monitor your son's / daughter's attendance. Praise good attendance and show real concern if attendance is becoming a problem.
- If you feel your son/daughter is unhappy at school, contact us via their tutor to ensure we can work together to resolve any issues before they become an obstacle to attendance.

▶ What school is doing to support attendance

- All staff understand how important attendance is. Tutors and teachers emphasise this in tutorial times and in lessons. It is expected that all work missed is caught up and your child should speak to their teacher about this.



We check the attendance rates of identified students daily and contact those not in school.