

What to do if you are having trouble getting your child to school:

In the first instance contact your child's school to let them know there is a problem and they will advise you.

All schools in this Cluster operate an open door policy and there is always someone to help you at the end of the telephone or at your school's office.

### Late to school?

Being late for school reduces learning time.

If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

## Make their time in school count!

Attending school every day = 100% attendance.

Attending 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year or 2 full years missed over the course of their school career.

Attending 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school

# Dereham Cluster School Attendance

## Information for Parents

Why should my child go to school?

- To learn
- To enjoy
- To be safe
- To prepare for the world of lifelong learning

The world is run by those who turn up!



Dereham Cluster of schools are working together to ensure we achieve the best possible attendance for your children. To do this we ask that you work with us.

We want your children to enjoy their time in school and at the end of their school career we want to know they are leaving with a solid foundation for their chosen path in life.

**Your bit?** To do this they do need to be in school as much as possible and for that they need your support and guidance as parents.

**Our bit?** Once they are in school we ensure they are safe, happy and nurtured. But most of all that they are learning!

**Their bit?** That they are in school every day and on time ready to learn.

## The Law

### Leave of Absence during Term Time

Amendments to the 2006 Regulations in Education -Changes came into force on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. No holidays will be authorised.

If you apply for a leave of absence for holiday which is not granted by your child's school but still choose to take them away from school in term time then you could be subject to a fixed penalty fee of £60 per child per parent.

If your child misses a period of time out of school they may:

- struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- miss out on the social side of school life - especially at primary school. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.

The only exceptions are for :

- Illness
- Medical visits (where these cannot be arranged out of school time)
- Educational visits/school activities
- Exceptional circumstances (e.g. a funeral)
- Religious observance

