



Welcome to the second attendance newsletter of the year!

The aim of our attendance newsletters is to provide parents with current attendance information and promote the importance of attendance across the school community. At Limehurst Primary School we take attendance very seriously and believe high achievement is closely linked to good school attendance.

How do we monitor school attendance?

The Department for Education (DfE) produces regular reports on attendance, which provide national (across England) and local (by region and borough) data for primary schools. We use the data from the DfE to assess our school.

The most recent data published by the DfE covers up to the 13th of October 2023.

National average primary % ➡ 95.4%

Oldham average primary % ➡ 95.1%

Our school's current whole school attendance percentage is 93.3%. This is below our school target of 95% AND below the local and national attendance averages (see above).

Over the past year, you may have heard the term 'persistent absentees' mentioned in the news. Persistent absentees are those children who have missed more than 10% of their school sessions. In a year there are 190 teaching days. If a child misses 19 days or more, they will fall into this category. Children who are persistently absent, for whatever reason, are closely monitored to ensure their attendance improves.

At the end of the last school year the national (across England) persistent absence rate for primary schools was **17%**. At Limehurst, our overall PA % rate was **24.5%**! This means that nearly a quarter of our pupils were persistently absent from school.

We need to work closely across our school community to reduce the number of pupils who are persistently absent. We are only 8 weeks into the school year and we already have **23%** of our pupils recorded as persistent absentees! As we are only in the Autumn Term, there is plenty of time for us to work together to improve the number of persistently absent pupils at our school.

How can we work together to improve school attendance?

Parents/Carers:

- The only reason that your child should be absent from school is if they are too ill to attend. Mild symptoms should not prevent your child from attending school. See NHS guidance on the 'Attendance page' of our website.
- Avoid taking your child on holidays during term time.
- Where possible, avoid making medical appointments during the school day. If a medical appointment cannot be avoided, limit the amount of time missed from school - e.g. bring your child to school prior to the appointment and return to them to school after the appointment.
- If it is the parent/carer feeling unwell, attempt to make every effort to get your child to school e.g. arrange for a family member or friend to help.
- Notify school as soon as possible if you are experiencing any difficulties with your child's attendance.

School:

- Provide a safe and nurturing environment that your child enjoys being a part of.
- Follow our 'improving school attendance policy', which includes monitoring EVERY child's attendance and informing parents when their child's attendance becomes a concern.
- Work together with families who require advice and support regarding improving their child's attendance.