

ST OSWALD'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Christ Be Our Light

Our Catholic family of schools is committed to living and promoting Gospel values. Through mutual support and co-operation, we strive to foster the spiritual, physical, emotional and academic development of young people entrusted to our care where each person is valued as an individual. We aim for excellence in all we do.



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(available to download from [website](#))

CONTACT INFORMATION



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

PERSISTENT ABSENCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

OVER 430,000 CHILDREN MISS A MONTH OF SCHOOL LESSONS A YEAR

The Department for Education holds schools and academies accountable for pupil absences using the two key measures of overall absence rate and persistent absence rate.

The overall absence rate is the aggregated total of all authorised and unauthorised absences, whilst persistent absence relates to an individual pupil's overall absence equating to 10% or more of their possible sessions.

The methodology for tracking persistent absence is achieved by calculating cumulative sessions of absence throughout the school year, over the six half terms. The prescribed thresholds relating to sessions of absence are as follows:

Half Term 1, 7 sessions or more

Half Term 1-2, 14 sessions or more

Half Term 1-3, 20 sessions or more

Half Term 1-4, 25 sessions or more

Half Term 1-5, 31 sessions or more

Half Term 1-6, 38 sessions or more

In general terms, 10% or more absence equates to a pupil with 90% or less attendance. One day absence, is 2 sessions.

There are a variety of reasons for a pupil to be absent from school, some of which is unavoidable. However, every absence has the potential to affect their learning.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

This is how Ofsted rates your child's school attendance

100%-99% **OUTSTANDING**

98%-97% **GOOD**

96%-95% **SATISFACTORY**

94%-91% **INADEQUATE**

90%-86% **CAUSE FOR CONCERN**

85% & below **SERIOUS CONCERN**

The Academy expects every child to have at least 97% attendance at any one time throughout the school year

The government expects schools to promote outstanding attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence; ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled and act early to address patterns of absence including persistent absence.

The government reports on persistent absence nationally in all schools. This information is used as a benchmark to grade schools in any inspection.

St Oswald's Catholic Academy Trust fulfils its expectations in relation to persistent absent pupils, through a robust attendance process which seeks to work closely with pupils and parents. This practice is consistently applied across each academy.

As few as 19 missed days over the school year reduces your child's chances of success. Their SAT or GCSE results could drop by one grade across all subjects.

THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A LINK BETWEEN POOR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL AND LOW LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT.

Persistent absence is a serious problem for the pupil. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these pupils at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career.

Quickly, these children begin to fall behind their friends and often fail to fill in gaps in their skills or knowledge, sometimes in basics like reading or writing. This applies to every child regardless of aptitude and ability.

St Oswald's Catholic Academy Trust will inform parents in writing, if their child is a persistent absent pupil. An appropriate plan will be put in place in relation to the child's needs and reasons for absence. This will be tracked over the following half term with an identified member of staff, to ensure further absences are not accrued.

During this period the pupil will be a priority contact by the identified staff member, if there are any further absences.

Using the prescribed thresholds, predictions are made on each pupil's absence throughout the remainder of the school year. This information is also used to correlate absence with a pupil's achievement, progress and predicted grades.

Persistent absence is a safeguarding factor which can identify pupils who may be vulnerable for welfare reasons.