

Attendance: the top facts to know & share

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, **just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.
- **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, compared with 84% of regular attenders.¹

And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.²

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.³

Attendance in the first week of school in September sets up attendance throughout the year (and it's time to start preparing for back to school now):

- Evidence from a Children's Commissioner report showed that children who miss one of the first few days of the new term for unauthorised reasons are much more likely to miss long periods of their schooling than their peers who attended those first few days. These children had a predicted overall absence of almost 45%, or 31 days across the term.⁴
- In the 2022/23 academic year, of those who had at least one day of absence in the first week of term, 55.5% went on to be persistently absent.⁵

1: [The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/19 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

2: [Missing Children, Missing Grades | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

3: [Mental Health and Attendance at School \(Chapter 1\) - Mental Health and Attendance at School \(cambridge.org\)](https://cambridge.org)

4: [Let's get ready for September | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

5: [Pupil attendance in schools, Week 8 2024 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)