

Bloxwich Academy



Attendance Matters

October 2024

At a glance...



- School attendance impacts greatly on the life chances of our young people.
- Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialization throughout life.
- The greatest benefits come from attending school regularly.
- Students who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work, become demotivated and their attainment is often lower than their peers.

Year Group Stats



A monthly snapshot of our attendance

YEAR GROUP	ATTENDANCE %
7	93%
8	87.3%
9	87.1%
10	85.3%
11	87.4%
13	88%
Overall	87.9%

Attendance Rewards



Attendance Reward Trip: A Huge Success!

We are thrilled to announce that on the 27th of September, 200 of our pupils were rewarded with a fantastic trip to Alton Towers for their excellent school attendance. The pupils had an amazing time, enjoying the rides, attractions, and a well-deserved day of fun! It was a wonderful way to celebrate their commitment to attending school regularly and staying engaged with their learning.

We want to encourage all parents to continue supporting their children's school attendance next half term. With good attendance, they could qualify for our next exciting reward trip! More details will be shared soon.

Congratulations to Our "Don't Ghost us" Attendance Stars!

A big round of applause to the 40 pupils who earned our **Don't Ghost us** attendance reward for showing the most improved attendance this term! To celebrate their efforts, they were treated to delicious hot chocolate, topped with marshmallows and crème, along with a selection of tasty pastries.

Additionally, all students who attended school for the entire final week of the half term received a special Halloween treat! Well done to all of you for your dedication to attending school regularly.

Let's keep up the great work, and we look forward to rewarding more student's next term!

Attendance Champions: 7S2!

We are delighted to announce that **7S2** had the best attendance this half term! As a reward for their fantastic effort, they will enjoy a special breakfast after the break.

In the house league, **Stephenson** currently leads the table for overall attendance. Let's keep up the great work and aim for even higher attendance next term! Thank you for your continued.

Overall Attendance



	HOUSE
1 st	Stephenson
2 nd	Telford
3 rd	Brindley
4 th	Watt



Medical Appointments



Only appointments supported with medical evidence will be authorised.

- Please ensure to book all appointments during school holidays
- Please forward a copy of any medical letters or texts received to attendance@bloxwichacademy.co.uk
- If an appointment falls during the school day, students must be collected by a parent/carer

Q&A



Answers to the most asked questions.

School gates open at 8.15am. Pupils should be on site for 8:30am and in line up by 8:40am. If your child arrives after 8:35am they will be marked late.

Q. Why has my child been marked late when the school bus caused them to be?

We legally cannot mark a student as present, on site, when they are not. Whilst they will have been marked as late, no sanctions will be set.

Q. My child is late due to a personal circumstance, what should I do?

If your child is late to school due to unavoidable cause, we ask parents to get in touch with your head of house to arrange a phone call or meeting to discuss the barriers to arriving on time.

Q. My child is late due to the distance they have to travel to get to school. What should I do?

We understand that distance from school can sometimes make it challenging to arrive on time. However, punctuality is very important for your child's learning. To help with this, we suggest considering adjustments to your morning routine or exploring alternative transport options. If there are specific difficulties you're facing please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's Assistant Head of House.

Q&A



Q. My child has a U code on their registration certificate, what does this mean?

If your child arrives after 9:10am, as a school we legally have to mark them as U on the register. A U code results in an unauthorised absence for their AM mark.

Q. Why have I received an attendance warning letter through the post?

If you have received an attendance warning letter in the post it means your child's attendance has become a concern and has fallen below 90%. An attendance below 90% is classified as persistently absent (PA) and you may face a penalty notice.

Q. Why has my child received an unauthorised absence when I have informed you of their absence?

All medical appointments must have evidence provided in order for absences to be authorised.

If your child's attendance has dipped below 90%, this is classed as a Persistent Absence (PA), medical evidence will need to be produced in order for the absence to be authorised.

Q. What does PA mean?

Persistent Absence. If your child's attendance falls below 90%. Every absence will need medical evidence to be authorised.

Q&A



Q. Please explain the attendance codes - why does my child have an O?

/ - present during registration/lesson

L - late (but arrived before register closes 8.40 - 9.10)

U - late (arrived after register closes 9.10)

O - absent with no contact/attendance less than 90%

Q. What is an EWO?

Educational **W**elfare **O**fficer. They will be instructed to carry out safe and well home visits if your child has been absent from school for 3 or more days, and no contact or medical evidence has been received. As part of our safeguarding/attendance procedures, we need to physically see our students. If no-one is at home, they will leave a card asking you to make contact as soon as possible.

Q. If my child is ill how do I report absence?

Parents/carers must notify school on the first day the child is unable to attend school by 8.30am. Parents must give detailed reasons for absence. For example, 'child has a throat infection/been sick etc' rather than just 'unwell/poorly'. Parents/carers use the main telephone number and then select the appropriate house and leave a message. Tel: 01922 710257

Q&A



Q. My child has tested positive for COVID, do they need to be off school?

There are no longer isolation periods for COVID. Unless your child has a temperature, they can still come in to school.

CHILDHOOD ILLNESS INFORMATION: www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/ **How long does my child need to stay off school?**

- Chickenpox at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
- Diarrhoea and Vomiting 48 hours after their last episode
- Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19) they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend.
- Impetigo their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
- Measles 4 days after the rash first appeared
- Mumps 5 days after the swelling started
- Scabies they've had their first treatment
- Scarlet Fever 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
- Whooping Cough 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

Your child does **NOT** need to be absent from school for:

- Hand, foot and mouth
- Glandular fever
- Head lice
- Tonsillitis
- Threadworms
- Slapped cheek
- COVID-19 if they do not have a high temperature

Please make the school aware if your child has been diagnosed with any of the above.

Important Update



Please be aware of the new unauthorised absences fixed penalty notices.

- 1st Offence = Penalty Notice £160 reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days **per parent** (start of 3-year period)
- 2nd Offence = Penalty Notice £160 Fixed **per parent**
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued, any further offences will result in court action.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could receive a fine of up to £2,500.

A Penalty Notice may be issued for 10 unauthorised (which is equal to 5 days, or 10 sessions) of unauthorised leave over a ten-week period

Leave of Absence forms can be downloaded from the school website and are part of the attendance policy. Leave of absence forms should be completed no later than 8 weeks prior to the absence.

Contact us



Important contact information

Please report your child's absence as soon as possible.

If no contact is made by 9.30am, you will receive an absence telephone call or safe and well visit to your home.

To report your child's absence:

Telephone: 01922 710257

Email: Attendance@bloxwichacademy.co.uk