



ATTENDANCE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Attendance Matters: every day counts

A Quick Attendance Reminder *

- **95% attendance** = around 10 days missed over a school year.
- **90% attendance** = around 19 days missed, which is nearly four weeks of school.
- **85% attendance** = around 29 days missed, which is nearly six weeks of school.

- - - - -

At Edwinstree, we want every child to have the very best opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve success, build friendships and develop confidence.

The Department for Education (DfE) states that being in school every day supports children's learning, wellbeing and wider development. Even missing a small amount of school can have an impact. Lessons build on previous learning, and regular attendance helps children keep up with their peers, maintain routines and feel fully connected to school life.

What can parents do?

The DfE reminds parents that they are responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly and arrives on time. If your child is unable to attend due to illness, please contact the school as early as possible on the first day of absence and keep us updated as needed. This can be done by emailing attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or by informing us through Arbor.

Holidays and leave of absence

The DfE guidance is clear that leave of absence during term time should only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays are generally not considered exceptional and are likely to be unauthorised. Any requests for leave of absence should be made in writing to Mrs Gant and/or Mr Rowlands via attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

"As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community we support one another to flourish, and live life in all its fullness."



ATTENDANCE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

How we can help

We understand that sometimes attendance can be affected by circumstances beyond a family's control. The DfE promotes a 'support first' approach, where schools work in partnership with families to understand and overcome any barriers to attendance. If your child is finding it difficult to attend school regularly, please talk to your child's tutor, Head of Year or the Wellbeing Hub. We are here to help and support wherever we can.

"Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development."

*Based on a typical 190-day school year.

"As a Christian school we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community we support one another to flourish, and live life in all its fullness."