

Attendance Policy

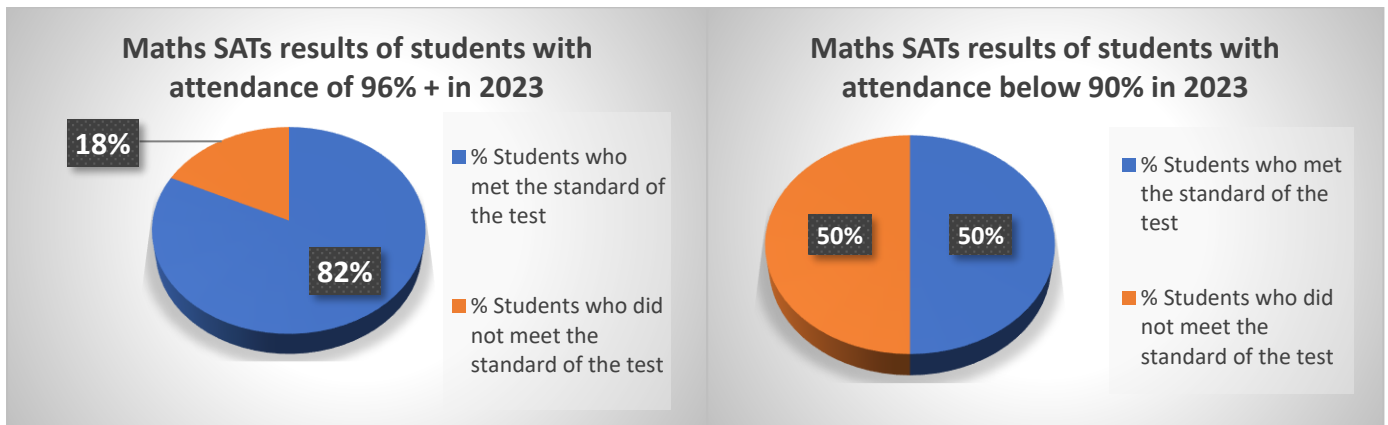
A high level of school attendance is essential for students to reach their full educational potential and at Edwinstree Middle School we are committed in supporting the aspirations of the whole school community. The foundation for good school attendance is a strong partnership between school, parents and students. The full Edwinstree Middle School Attendance Policy can be found on our school website with some key information highlighted below:

- Students should arrive every day, on time and ready to learn
- Parents/carers should inform the school office every day that their child is absent unless a return date has already been reported
- Absence should be notified using the dedicated email address attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or by leaving a message on the school answerphone
- if your child's attendance falls below 95% the class tutor will call home to offer support
- If your child's attendance continues to decline the Head of Year will call home before the school issue a medical evidence letter. Further absences will only be authorised if medical evidence is provided.

The importance of good attendance

Good school attendance prepares students for the demands of adulthood and has many other benefits:

- There is a link between strong attainment and good attendance which is illustrated in our school SATs data for 2023:



- Being around peers improves the mental health of children and helps them to maintain friendships
- School attendance supports children to feel confident and happy about school and learning
- Coming to school every day builds good routines which promotes good sleep health

Did you know?

- Being absent for one day a of school per week = 195 hours of lost learning in a school year
- Being absent for one day every month = 55 hours of lost learning in a school year

What to do if you are struggling to get your child to school

If your child is reluctant to come to school and you need support please communicate with us. We endeavour to build strong relationships with families, listen to and understand barriers to attendance and work with families to remove them.

Attendance recognition

We recognise that most students at Edwinstree Middle School arrive on time and have a high level of attendance and we reward students and families for their commitment. The following attendance rewards system is in place:

- During Friday COWO one student who has achieved 100% attendance for the week will be chosen at random
- The chosen student and two friends of their choice will be issued with early lunch passes for the following week and will be permitted to go to lunch ten minutes early Monday-Thursday
- Every half term a student with 100% attendance will be chosen at random and a £25 gift voucher will be issued to their parents/carers. (The winning family may select a takeaway voucher or other online shop.)