

July 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

The county council and school/setting leaders across Suffolk are all committed to ensuring the best education and opportunities for every child in our county. **Regular school attendance is vital to this.**

[Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. By ensuring your child attends school regularly, you are providing them with the best chance of future success.

We understand that life can present challenges that may impact attendance. If you are facing difficulties or concerns that are affecting your child's attendance, we encourage you to reach out so we can work together to support you and ensure your child can attend school regularly.

Regular school attendance not only supports their academic progress but also helps them develop crucial life skills, resilience, and a strong work ethic that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Below are 10 pieces of information for you and your child on fostering a positive culture around attendance:

- talk to your child about how important it is to attend school; ask regularly about how school is going.
- inspire them to think about what they would like to be when they grow up, and how school can help with that.
- ensure they have a [good sleep routine](#), eat healthily and exercise regularly; help them to get everything they need ready for school the night before.
- [use the NHS guidance on illness](#).
- book all holidays outside of term time.
- book medical and dental appointments outside school hours if possible – and if not possible, ensure your child attends school before and after the appointment.
- if your child complains of boredom, contact their class teacher, form teacher or head of year to find out more.
- find out if your child wants to avoid school for a reason that they're frightened to tell you about – reach out to your school to discuss these reasons further.
- schools are there to support parents/carers as well as children. Work openly with your school to address any attendance issues.
- The Government has published a recent [blog](#) on why school attendance is important and provides advice on circumstances where missing a school day is permitted.

We are hoping for 100% attendance on the first day of school in September to start as we mean to go on. Please help us to get as close as possible to this ambition.

Yours sincerely



**Adrian Orr**  
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