

School Attendance Matters



Why aiming for 96%+ attendance makes a big difference

Every school day counts. When children attend regularly, they feel happier, more confident, and more successful. This leaflet explains why aiming for 96% attendance or higher helps your child thrive.



Why 39 Reasons?

There are **39 weeks** in the school year, and we've included 39 reasons to show that every single week matters. Each week offers new learning, new experiences and new opportunities for your child. When attendance stays at 96% or higher, children make the most of all 39 weeks — not just academically, but socially and emotionally too. Children attend school for 190 days a year (39 weeks minus inset days), which represents approximately 52% of a full 365-day calendar year.



39 Reasons Why Good Attendance Helps Your Child

1. Learning & Progress

1. They don't miss key explanations in lessons.
2. Learning builds day by day — being present keeps them on track.
3. Children with 96%+ attendance make stronger progress.
4. Fewer gaps develop in reading, writing and maths.
5. Teachers can give feedback in real time.
6. Better attendance leads to better test and exam results.
7. Regular practice helps knowledge stick.
8. They avoid the stress of catching up.
9. Daily routines support stronger learning habits.
10. High attendance increases the chance of meeting their targets.

2. Confidence, Wellbeing & Belonging

11. School provides structure that supports emotional wellbeing.
12. Regular attendance builds resilience and independence.
13. Children feel more confident when they're not falling behind.
14. Friendships grow stronger when they're in school consistently.
15. Being present reduces feelings of isolation.
16. They can access pastoral and wellbeing support when needed.
17. Good attendance builds positive habits for life.
18. Feeling part of the school community boosts self-esteem.
19. Children who attend regularly feel more settled and secure.

20. Daily attendance supports positive mental health.

3. Future Readiness & Life Skills

- 21. Employers value reliability – attendance builds this early.
- 22. It mirrors workplace expectations for punctuality and commitment.
- 23. Children with good attendance access more clubs and opportunities.
- 24. Daily interaction strengthens communication skills.
- 25. They receive careers advice and guidance at the right time.
- 26. Teamwork skills grow through regular participation.
- 27. They learn to manage deadlines and responsibilities.
- 28. High attendance prepares them for 6th form, college, apprenticeships or work.
- 29. Good habits formed now last into adulthood.
- 30. Children who attend regularly are more likely to stay in education, employment or training.

4. Safety, Support & Community

- 31. Being in school keeps children safe and supervised.
- 32. Staff can spot concerns early and offer support.
- 33. Regular attendance builds trust with adults in school.
- 34. Children contribute positively to the school community.
- 35. It helps them move smoothly between year groups.
- 36. They understand routines and expectations more clearly.
- 37. Good attendance reduces stress caused by falling behind.
- 38. School provides meals, resources and support they may miss otherwise.
- 39. Attending regularly shows commitment to learning.



How families can help

- Keep routines consistent – bedtime, mornings, organisation.
- Aim for medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Talk to us early if you're finding attendance difficult.
- Celebrate good attendance with your child.
- Let us know if you need support – we're here to help.

We're on your side

If you ever have concerns about your child's attendance, wellbeing or barriers to getting into school, please reach out. Working together makes the biggest difference. Please contact our achievement teams by email:

Nursery to YEAR 3 - lowerschool@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

YEAR 7 - year7@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

YEAR 8 - year8@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

YEAR 9 - year9@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

YEAR 10 - year10@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

YEAR 11 - year11@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

YEAR 12 - year12@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

YEAR 13 - year13@cowbridgeschool.co.uk

Theme 1: They don't miss key explanations in lessons.

Our school community's attendance theme, "They don't miss key explanations in lessons," connects daily classroom learning with our fast-moving world. In an era of rapid AI breakthroughs, critical climate action, and shifting global economies, processing complex information is a vital life skill.

When students are absent, they miss the real-time context, interactive discussions, and intellectual sparks that connect subjects to global realities. Being present builds the professional stamina demanded by today's job market. Global employers seek individuals who can synthesize sophisticated instructions and adapt to technological shifts. Active listening and critical questioning happen live. The skills needed to navigate complex scenarios are built during the precise moments teachers deliver and explore live explanations. These collaborative moments cannot be replicated by copying notes later.

Consistent attendance is about empowerment. Every missed explanation creates a learning gap. By ensuring your child is in school every day, you guarantee them a front-row seat to the knowledge shaping their future.