

Positively Raising Attendance

Introduce play into your curriculum

Finding ways to make the school day age appropriate and appealing to the children is a sure-fire way of ensuring they will want to attend.

Swapping out something that is having very little impact or condensing a topic into fewer lessons to create time for regular self-directed play will have a huge impact!

Joining in with this play is a great way of improving attendance through:

- Nurturing supportive relationships
- Making school appealing
- Providing fun and inclusive learning opportunities
- Gaining insights as to why absence is happening, as it provides you time to chat with your children in a relaxed and supportive way.

Ask the children

Including the children in finding solutions to key issues that school faces is a great way to develop personal responsibility and nurture a sense of community.

Finding out what the children think about attendance and what they think can be done to raise it will provide insights into to a positive way forward and will give the children a sense of ownership.

- A child led think tank
- Pupil voice – what don't school know about attitudes to attendance and what would help?
- Information videos created, directed and produced by the children around the positives of raising attendance.
- Incorporating this into lessons to raise awareness around the benefits of high attendance.

Prioritise effective communication

Effective communication that nurtures a shared purpose will drive positive change.

Considering your communication around attendance could highlight how it is contributing to the problem rather than solving it. Key questions,...

- Does this communication create an 'us and them' mentality? How could we communicate better to encourage the community to work with us?
- Are we avoiding direct communication and using a blanket approach where direct communication would be more effective?
- Is our communication around attendance threatening or supportive?
- Have we **effectively** communicated why this is a problem? Myth busting!
- Are we prioritising exploring effective communication, with parents and children, as a key contributor to positive change, what more could we do?

Engage with parents and families

Working as a team on the things that are directly linked to the behaviours of parents and families will provide insights on how to drive positive change.

Providing opportunities for the community to join in with finding solutions for how to raise attendance will ensure they feel heard and included and will provide options and ideas that are relevant to your school community.

- A parent led think tank
- Parent voice – What don't school know about attitudes to attendance and what would help?
- What are the key reasons why this is an issue from a parent perspective?
- What are school doing that isn't working?



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Swap certificates for communication:

Taking just a second to show a child they are cared for, part of your team, valued and missed when they are not there is worth so much more than losing the right to a certificate when it comes to raising attendance.

When a child returns after being absent:

“I’m so glad you are here.”

“We’ve missed you.”

“It feels great to have you back with us.”

“It can feel strange to come back after being off, can’t it? We all know how you feel.”

“I love it when we have a full house, so glad you are back.”

“I was so happy to see you were going to be back in today!”

To a child struggling to attend regularly:

“I know how hard it has been for you to come in today, I am so glad you did.”

“I know how hard it has been for you to come in today, I’m noticing how brave you are being.”

“I know how hard it has been for you to come in today, this gives us proof that you can do hard things, I love that we have that!”

“I’m happy you are here, our class feels complete when you are with us.”

“I notice you and I know the challenges you are overcoming to be here.”

“Success is not one big event in the future, it is an action taken today, you’re proving you have got this!”

“You being here has brightened my day!”

