

# Elmtree Infant and Nursery School



## School Attendance Guidance

### What parents and carers need to know

#### Why attend every day?

Attending school at Elmtree is crucial for your child's early education for several reasons:

1. **Early Development:** Infant and Nursery children are in a critical stage of brain development. High quality early education at Elmtree provides a stimulating environment that promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development.
2. **Social Skills:** School offers children the chance to interact with peers, helping them develop essential social skills such as sharing, cooperation, and empathy.
3. **Routine and Structure:** School provides a consistent routine that helps children feel secure and understand the flow of daily activities. This structure can be beneficial for their overall development.
4. **Language Development:** Engaging with teachers, support staff and other children in school exposes children to rich language experiences, which are vital for communication skills and literacy development.
5. **Physical Development:** Early education includes activities that promote fine and gross motor skills, such as climbing, drawing, and playing with various materials. Children in the EYFS are supposed to be out of breath several times a day- they are at Elmtree!
6. **Emotional Resilience:** Being in school helps children learn to navigate emotions and build resilience by self-regulating, as they experience new situations and develop coping strategies.
7. **Parental Support:** Early schooling can also be an invaluable resource for parents, providing you with support and information about your child's learning and progress.
8. **Foundation for Future Learning:** The experiences and skills gained in early education lay the groundwork for later academic success, making the transition to formal schooling smoother from the early years to key stage one, and then to key stage two (and beyond).

Attending school for at least 96% of the time supports children to thrive in a nurturing environment, setting the stage for lifelong learning and development.

### **When a child can be absent from school**

A child must attend school every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill. Medical appointments such as for the dentist/ GP should be made outside of school timings.

Children should never miss school for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- Holidays during term time (these will not be authorised)
- Shopping
- Birthdays
- To wait in for a repair person
- To take a family member to an appointment

**You have a legal duty to ensure that your child attends school every day and is on time.**

Taking your child out of school during term time for holidays is also likely to impact on their achievement. There are 38 weeks in the year when schools are open, and 14 weeks when families can take holidays. Head teachers can only authorise a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances.

### **The effects of irregular attendance**

A pupil who misses 10% or more of school (equivalent of 1 day or more per fortnight) is less likely to attain their potential academically.

Missing school can also:

- cause anxiety about returning
- cause difficulties in maintaining friendships
- mean missing out on socialising and decline in general wellbeing

### **Support**

We know children may struggle to attend school for a wide range of reasons. We will always work with you to help overcome any issues. Elmtree has strong pastoral support and there are several different ways we can support your child to attend school. If you would like any further information then please speak to our Family Liaison Officer, Miss Snowdon.

### **Consequences**

If your child takes unauthorised holidays or takes longer than the time agreed by the Headteacher, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Sanctions could be imposed including:

- Your child could lose their school place
- You could face a penalty fine (per parent per child) of £80
- You could be subject to legal action by the authority that could result in a fine of up to £2,500. If your child has an unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays during term time, re-occurring lateness, or persistent absence for any other

reason other than certified illness, the school will refer the matter to the Council for consideration of a Penalty Notice and/or Prosecution in the Magistrates' Court which may lead to a criminal record with a maximum fine of £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

***Regular and punctual attendance is both a legal requirement and essential for your child to maximise the opportunities available to them.***

## **Understanding the impact of lateness and absence for your child**



At Elmtree we have a soft start from 8.45-8.55am. Gates close at 8.55am. Registers close at 9.00am. If your child arrives after this, they will be marked as late.

<b>If in a school year a child is late by-</b>	<b>Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-</b>
5 minutes	3.2 days (16 lessons)
10 minutes	6.3 days (32 lessons)
15 minutes	9.5 days (48 lessons)
20 minutes	12.7 days (64 lessons)
25 minutes	15.8 days (79 lessons)

In order to achieve our expected 96% attendance success, children must be in school for at least 184 out of 190 days. This means that no more than 6 school days can be missed to ensure your child achieves their full potential and maximises their learning.

If a child's attendance during the school year is-	Your child will have lost approximately this much learning-
96%	6 days (30 lessons)
95%	9 days (45 lessons)
90%	19 days (95 lessons)
85%	29 days (145 lessons)
80%	38 days (190 lessons)
75%	48 days (240 lessons)