

## Every day really does count!

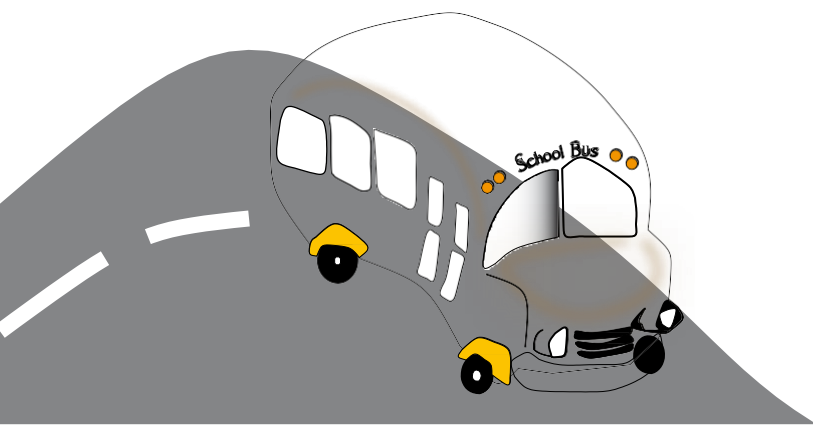
Your child can quickly fall behind if even one day is missed. This includes days where children could go to school but don't feel like it.

Catching up even a little lost time from school can be really difficult.

Good regular attendance often means doing well academically, better relationships with other children and better overall behaviour in school.

Good attendance isn't just about what happens in school. Absence when your child is young can limit their future opportunities, and set up bad habits for work and life.

If a child misses just one day a week, over the course of their school life they will miss 2 years of schooling.



## Your responsibility:

As a parent you have the legal responsibility for making sure your school-registered child attends.

### You can help your child by:

- Making sure your child understands the importance of good attendance and getting to school on time.
- Taking an interest in your child's education—ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- Listening to your child when they tell you about problems at school - inform their teacher or head teacher about anything serious.
- Not letting your child take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- Arranging appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays.

## What we can do to help:

Education Welfare promotes good attendance at school. Your child's school should advise you who to talk to if you are concerned about:

- School attendance and welfare related issues
- Bullying
- Exclusion
- Child Employment & Performance
- Drug & Alcohol misuse
- Referral to other agencies for additional support

If your child's school is concerned about your child's attendance, they will make a referral to the Integrated Services Team in your area, who may contact you to discuss your child's attendance.



## The Law:

Swindon Borough Council has a Statutory duty to ensure parents fulfil their legal responsibility in relation to their child's education.

The following action can be taken against parents:

- Simple Caution (Home Office Caution)

During the last academic year 6 Cautions were issued

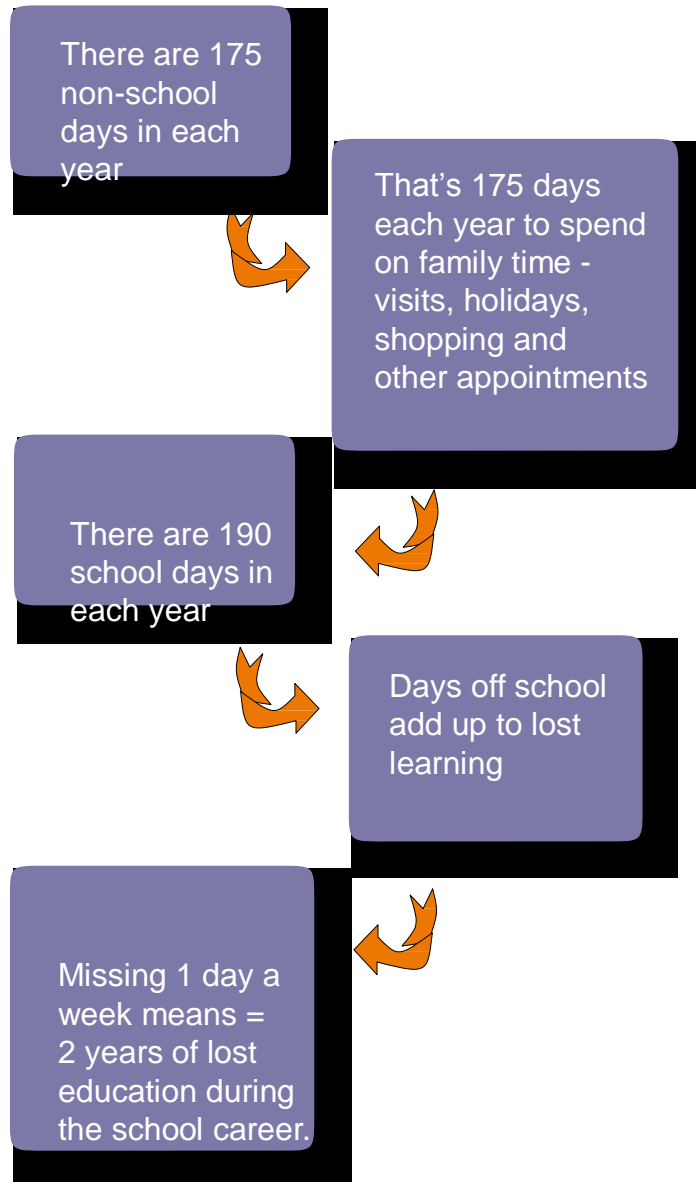
- Prosecution in the Magistrates Court Section 444(1) or 444(1A) Education Act 1996

During the last academic year 36 parents were prosecuted for their children's non-school attendance.

A further 66 parents were prosecuted for non-payment of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

- Fixed Penalty Notice - this gives a parent the opportunity of paying a £60 fine rather than being prosecuted in the Magistrates Court. The amount of the fine rises to £120 if not paid within 28 days. If it is not paid after 28 days the parent will be prosecuted.

During the last academic year 1309 parents were issued with a Penalty Notice



Children, Families and Community Health

Children and young people deserve the best start in life.

## Education Welfare Every Day Counts

2014 - 2015



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“ Every day counts! ”