



## Attendance 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

The importance of regular attendance cannot be overestimated. Regular school attendance has a positive effect on children and young people and a strong impact on learner outcomes, standards and progression. Establishing good attendance patterns from an early age is vital for social development. For example, the more time a child spends with other children in the classroom and as part of broader school-organised activities, the more chance they have of making friends, of feeling included, and of developing social skills, confidence and self-esteem. Conversely, extended absence from school is linked with behavioural and social problems. These effects can be long lasting and can affect a young person's mental health and their long-term life chances. The inter-relationship between attendance and wellbeing is considered so strong that attendance is often considered a proxy measure for learner wellbeing. Attending school also supports learners' wider development as full and rounded members of society.

The Curriculum for Wales is based on four purposes that demonstrate the breadth of the academic, wellbeing and social benefits that learners gain by attending school. Because of the well-established links between attendance and attainment, wellbeing and citizenship, improving attendance has long been an important policy aim for governments, local authorities and individual schools.

Internationally, the advantages of education are such that the right to a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities is one of the seven core aims of the Welsh Government based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Ebbw Fawr Cluster will be following the Blaenau Gwent Attendance pathway from September 2024 onwards. (Details shared below.)

We have also confirmed that across our schools up to 10 days Leave of Absence requests will only be authorised if your child/ren's attendance is 95% or above. Leave of Absence requests must be made via an electronic form. This form will be on your school's communication platforms and/or website.

ATTENDANCE %	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	OUTCOME
95-100% attendance	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
90-95% attendance	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
85-90% attendance	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work.
80-85% attendance	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning.
Below 80% attendance	At least 7½ weeks of learning missed	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution.

We look forward to working together to ensure your child/ren's attendance is the BEST it can be!

Kind regards,

Ebbw Fawr Cluster Schools

