

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers

Attendance Information

At Beaminster we are proud of our students and the positive culture we have built together. Our attendance is in line with the national average, but we know that even small improvements in attendance can make a **significant difference to outcomes, wellbeing, and future opportunities**.

We are writing to share why attendance matters so much, what the data shows, and how we will work alongside you to support your child.

National research is clear:

- Missing **just 10 days of school** can halve the chance of achieving a Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths
- Students with near-perfect attendance have **almost double the likelihood of strong GCSE outcomes**
- Missing **2–4 weeks of school** significantly reduces attainment and progress.

Attendance is vital, not only for academic success but also for developing friendships, a sense of belonging, positive mental health, resilience and overall wellbeing.

At Beaminster, we are committed to fostering this by building a strong sense of belonging for every student, celebrating and rewarding improved attendance, identifying and addressing barriers early, and working in close partnership with families.

The table below shows how days missed quickly add up:

Attendance %	Days missed (per year)	Weeks of learning lost	What this means
100%	0 days	0 weeks	Best possible chance of success
97%	~5 days	1 week	Some learning gaps begin
95%	~10 days	2 weeks	Noticeable impact on progress
92%	~15 days	3 weeks	Risk of falling behind
90%	~19–20 days	4 weeks	Persistent absence threshold
85%	~29 days	6 weeks	Significant learning loss
80%	~38 days	7–8 weeks	Almost a full term missed

A child with **90% attendance** misses around **4 weeks of learning each year**.

Over 5 years of secondary school, this can equate to **half a year of lost education**.

We understand that attendance challenges are often complex, and are committed to working with families, not against them.

We can help with:

- Pastoral and wellbeing support
- Anxiety and emotional health
- Friendship or behaviour concerns
- Special educational needs
- Transport or practical barriers
- Support plans and gradual reintegration.

If your child is finding attendance difficult, please contact us as early as possible. You can make a huge difference by:

- Encouraging a consistent daily routine
- Avoiding term-time holidays where possible
- Booking appointments outside of school hours
- Letting us know of any concerns quickly
- Promoting a positive attitude towards school.

Even **one day off every two weeks adds up to nearly a month of lost learning each year.**

Thank you for your ongoing support with school attendance.

Mr Quigley
Assistant Head