

School Absences.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence. What is the difference?

Every school, by law, has to register pupils twice a day; first thing in the morning and again in the afternoon. If a child fails to attend or arrives late they can be marked as an absence for that session. The register must show whether the absence is authorised (acceptable) or unauthorised (where no acceptable reason is given).

Examples of Authorised and Unauthorised absences.



Authorised Absences:

- Genuine illness
- Hospital/dental/Dr's appointment (copy to office)
- Major religious observance
- Visit to a prospective new school
- External exam or educational assessment
- Approved sporting, cultural or competing activity



Unauthorised Absences:

- Holiday in term time
- Persistent illness with no supporting medical evidence
- Oversleeping due to a late night
- Alarm clock not going off
- A medical appointment for another family member
- A birthday treat
- Bad weather
- Parent too unwell to bring

There are 38 weeks in the year when school is open and 14 weeks (175 days) when families can visit family, go on holiday, travel or attend non-urgent medical appointments.