

Why is it important to attend school?

Our aim is to ensure that all children leave Cornbank as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

In order to achieve this it is vital that children attend school every day, where possible as we know children benefit from an established routine.

What are the benefits of attending school every day?

- ✓ We learn
- ✓ We have fun and develop friendships
- ✓ We understand responsibility
- ✓ We experience new things in life
- ✓ We develop awareness of other cultures, religions, ethnicity and gender difference
- ✓ We achieve
- ✓ We succeed
- ✓ We develop new skills
- ✓ We build confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ We grow as individuals

When is it acceptable for my child to be off school?

We understand that on occasion your child may not be able to attend school. It may be that your child:

- ✓ Is ill
- ✓ Is attending an appointment
- ✓ Is attending a meeting
- ✓ Is experiencing a family crisis or emergency
- ✓ Is attending a religious ceremony or a family wedding
- ✓ Is a Gypsy/Traveller
- ✓ Is returning to a country of origin for cultural reasons

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please inform the school office immediately by phone or email. If the reason is a planned event please let us know in advance. In some instances, your child's absence may be authorised. Absences/illnesses should be reported to the school office by 9.10am at the latest.

Tel No: 0131 271 4575

Email: cornbank_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

Every Day Counts

100% attendance	0 days of absence 190 days in school	Excellent	Best chance of success and gets him/her off to a flying start
95% attendance	10 days of absence 180 days in school		
90% attendance	19 days of absence 171 days in school	Poor	Less chance of success and makes it harder to make progress
85% attendance	29 days of absence 161 days in school		
80% attendance	38 days of absence 152 days in school	Very Poor	Very poor attendance and serious implications on learning and reduced life chances
75% attendance	47 days of absence 143 days in school		

What should I do if my child is anxious or worried about school?

Your child has a right to an education and a right to be safe and happy at school. Sometimes children and young people can be anxious or worried about going to school for various reasons such as having a worry about their learning or friendships.

Sometimes families let their child stay off school under these circumstances. Unfortunately, this will not help address the problem. Please speak to school if this kind of problem occurs.

At Cornbank, we recognise that all learners are different. We will therefore work closely with you as an individual family to support you and your child to ensure a full attendance at school. We can only do this if you speak to us however, so please let your child's class teacher or office staff know if there is a problem.

Effects of low attendance

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for children to learn.

Teacher effectiveness is the strongest school-related determinant of learner

success, but chronic child absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. Children who attend school regularly achieve higher levels of success than those who do not have regular attendance.

Research shows that:

Regular absence leads to underachievement because children:

- ✓ miss the continuity of learning
- ✓ can suffer a lack of confidence on their return
- ✓ can lack motivation
- ✓ can begin to dislike school
- ✓ can have trouble with friendships
- ✓ miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences

What can you do?

- ✓ Take holidays during school breaks
- ✓ Make non-emergency appointments out of school hours
- ✓ Ensure you have a good bedtime and morning routine in place
- ✓ Inform school of any absence immediately

Attendance and why it makes a difference to your child's learning



Cornbank - where
everyone works
together to inspire
learners to be their
best now and in the
future