

# Attendance Matters, Every Day Counts



## Higher overall absence leads to lower attainment at KS2 and KS4

The Department for Education (DfE) published [research](#) in 2016 which found that:

- The higher the overall absence rate across Key Stage (KS) 2 and KS4, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS2 and KS4
- Pupils with **no absence** are 1.3 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 3.1 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 10-15% of all sessions
- Pupils with **no absence** are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A\* - C or equivalent including English and mathematics than pupils that missed 15-20% of KS4 lessons

## There's a clear link between poor attendance and lower academic achievement

DfE research (2012) on [improving attendance at school](#) found that:

- Of pupils with **absence over 50%**, only 3% manage to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C including maths and English
- 73% of pupils who have **over 95% attendance** achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C

## Pupils with persistent absence are less likely to stay in education

Advice from the [National Strategies](#) (hosted on the National Archives) says that:

- The links between attendance and achievement are strong
- Pupils with persistent absence are less likely to attain at school and stay in education after the age of 16 years

## You can find out more about the rules around term-time absence in the following sources:

- School attendance and absence: overview, GOV.UK  
<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview>