

# Update on Attendance

1. Latest Barnet attendance data
2. What is our response
3. What schools are doing

# Why is attendance so important?

- ‘New research (provides) further evidence that missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades’ Nick Gibb August 2016
- Latest school achievement reviews demonstrate that children in primary schools who have lowest attendance are far more likely not to attain age related expectations or to make expected progress
- Ofsted still view attendance as important – see your own inspector dashboard

# Did you know?

- If a child has 95% attendance, they will have missed 9 days or 50 lessons
- If a child has 90% attendance, they will have missed 19 days or 100 lessons



## Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know ...

If your child's attendance during the school year is ...	your child would have lost approximately ...	or they would have missed approximately ...
95%	9 days	50 lessons
90%	19 days	100 lessons
85%	29 days	150 lessons
80%	38 days	200 lessons
75%	48 days	250 lessons
70%	57 days	290 lessons
65%	67 days	340 lessons

You should not take your child on holiday during term time.

**REMEMBER: ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY**

# Useful Resources

## Remember to look at:

- Working with children in Barnet website
- Tab for 'improving attendance'



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# What Schools Are Doing

- Good attendance is part of a whole school culture
- Good attendance is driven by senior leaders, including governors
- There is an attendance champion in the school
- The school has clear actions to bring about improvement
- The active involvement of children
- Regular communication with parents (newsletters, guidance)

# Latest Barnet Update

- Barnet is ranked 98<sup>th</sup> out of 152 LAs for primary attendance (no difference from last year)
- Barnet is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> out of 152 LAs for secondary attendance
- In the last 2 academic years (up until 15/16), we were in line with the national average in terms of unauthorised absence
- We are ranked 122<sup>nd</sup> for authorised absence
- The main issue is medical appointments

# What is Barnet Doing to Tackle the Issue of Appointments

- Established a working party which:
  - shares good practice
  - supports the work of schools
- Currently liaising with our colleagues in health to look at the issue
- Schools have completed a survey to highlight issues e.g. dental appointments
- Presentation to Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Governing Bodies



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# What is Barnet Doing to Tackle the Issue of Appointments

Barnet Health have:

- Discussed with Primary Care commissioner any possible options available to offer out of school appointments
- Discussion and agreement to send information through the Comms team to encourage GP's and other Clinicians, where possible to consider offering out of school hours and school holiday appointments for regular follow up/monitoring appointments
- Raised awareness with providers that Barnet specifically has a higher than average schools "authorised absence" rate



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# How Schools are Tackling the Issue of Appointments

Communication is key:

- Regular slots in newsletters encouraging parents to make appointments out of school time
- Regularly providing term dates
- Encouraging parents to make routine appointments in the school holidays
- Give parents some guidelines e.g. don't take siblings out of school at the same time

# Additionally.....

- If an appointment must be in school time, families are encouraged to take the minimum amount of time (ie between registration periods)
- However, this may end up masking the issue!