

Attendance at Dixons Unity

Dear Families,

Date: 26th August 2020

At Dixons Unity Academy we have a dedicated attendance team who are on hand to support all families in improving their child's attendance. We are passionate about making learning accessible and know how important attendance is in helping our students achieve their goals.

If you have any questions, or would like any support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the attendance team at DUAAttendance@dixonsua.com or call the dedicated attendance line on 0113 2244277, where a member of the team will be on hand to offer support and guidance.

Many Thanks
The Attendance Team

How Attendance Impacts GCSE's

Attendance	Attendance Grade	Days missed	Risk of underachieving	Chance of gaining 5 good GCSEs at 4+
100%	9	0	No risk	94%
98-99%	8	2		
97%	7	3	No risk	92%
96%	6	6		
95%	5	7	Small risk	74%
93-94%	4	12	Serious risk	60%
89-92%	3	15		
83-88%	2		Severe risk	34%
66-82%	1	17+		
65% or less	0		Extreme risk	26%

Attendance vs progress

Research has shown that there is a strong link between attendance and achievement. If your child has high attendance, they have a much better chance of higher grades. These higher grades will ensure your child can go on to achieve their goals when they leave education.

As you can see from the data above, it is vitally important that your child attends school every day. If you are struggling to get your child to attend, we are here to help. Please contact us as soon as possible, so we can work together, there are adjustments and support packages that we can put in place, where appropriate, to help break down barriers and motivate them back into school

Managing Absence

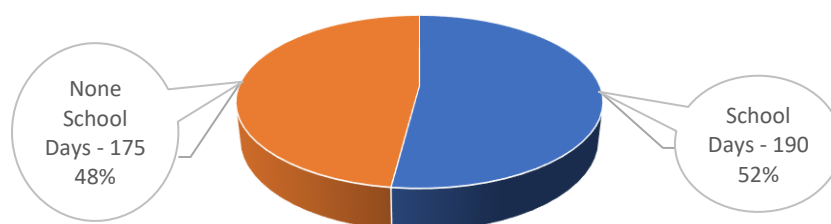
There are a small number of instances where a child has to miss school, please see the table overleaf for examples of authorised and unauthorised absences. If you believe your child will have to miss some school for ANY of these reasons, please contact us ASAP so we can discuss this with you and gain the relevant evidence to be put on your child's record. Evidence can be sent via email to DUAAttendance@dixonsua.com or you can forward a medical confirmation text directly to our text messaging service.



What if my child must be absent?	What about other reasons?
<p>There are certain circumstances where a child must be off school. These are called authorised absences. Only Dixons Unity Academy can authorise an absence. Reasons for doing so include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A genuine personal illness - A medical appointment, that is unavoidably in school time. (an appointment card/letter will be required as evidence) - A religious observation (if the religious festival occurs during term time) - An exceptional circumstance, such as a serious family event 	<p>It is likely that the vast majority of other reasons for absence will lead to an unauthorised absence. This would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Going shopping/getting a haircut etc - Parental/carer/sibling illness - A special treat, e.g. on a birthday - Family holiday during term time <p>NB: Unauthorised absences are very serious as they are regarded as a parent sanctioned truancy. Repeated unauthorised absences can lead to a fine being issued.</p>

What about taking a holiday?

The law is clear. Taking a child on holiday in term time will be deemed unauthorised and is likely to lead directly to a fine being issued.



Punctuality

It is not just good attendance that is important, GOOD PUNCTUALITY is vital. Being at school on time is key for ensuring your child is calm and ready to learn, that they do not miss the important routines at the start of the day and they do not miss work on reinforcing core knowledge that is set in Morning Meetings. If your child is going to be late due to an unavoidable appointment then please contact the academy's attendance team and provide evidence, a note in their planner is not sufficient. The academy day starts at 8am, students should be in the building and ready to learn by this time, NOT, just arriving at this time.

You will receive a text message to inform you if your child arrives to school late and it is our policy to issue detentions for ALL lateness, please see the below:

- 08:01 – 08:30 = 30 min detention
- 08:31 – 09:30 = 1-hour detention
- 09:31 – onwards = 2-hour detention

We will make a phone call home at the end of the week for persistent lateness, a meeting will be arranged in school if no improvement is shown.

The table below shows how being late can have just as large an impact on a child's education as being absent:

Lateness (Once Per Week)	Missed Lessons	No of days absent in year	Risk of underachieving
1 Hour	1	6 days	Small Risk
2 Hours	2	12.5 days	Serious Risk
3 Hours	3	19 days	Severe Risk

This table only shows the figures for lateness once a week!

