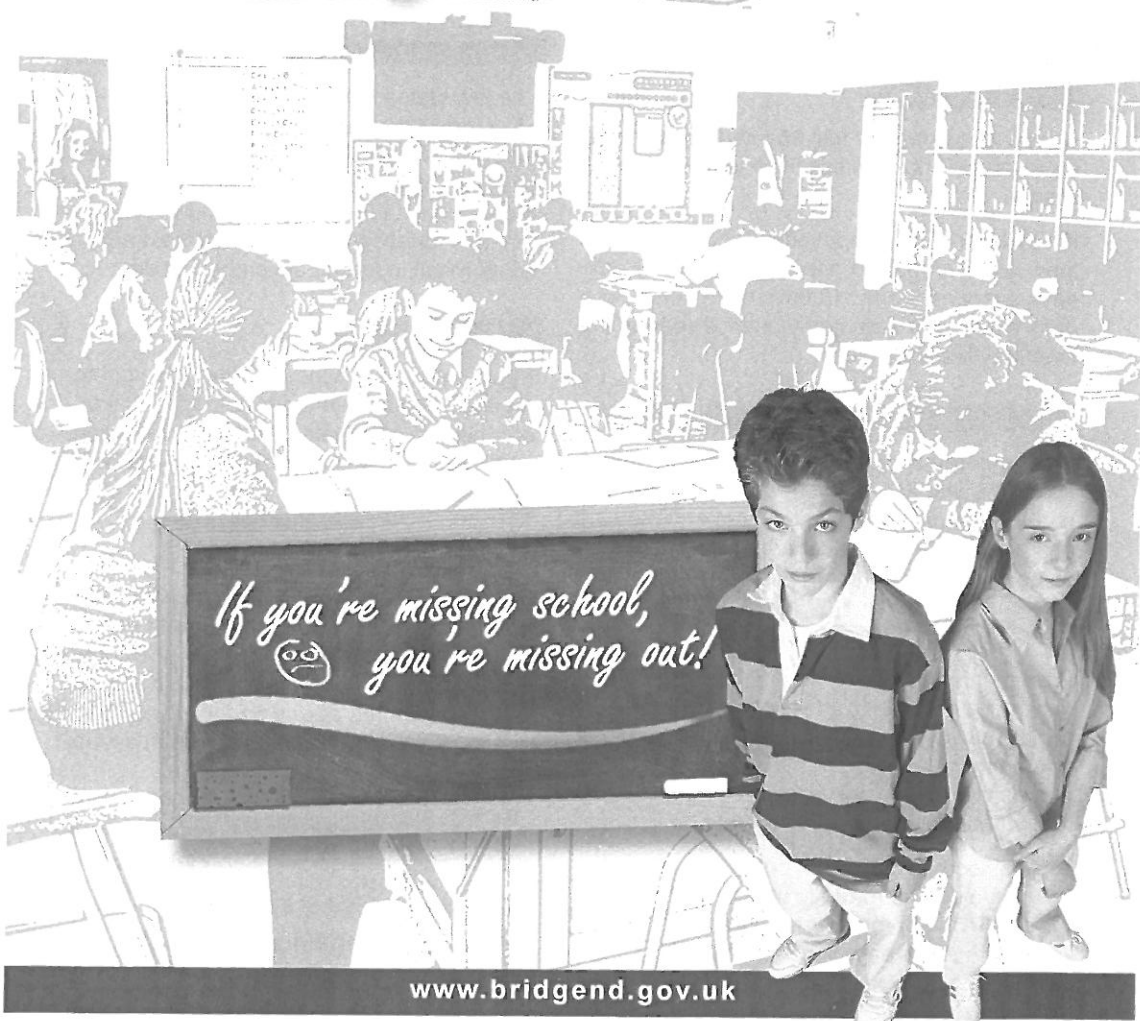


Success starts at school -



Why regular school attendance is important



www.bridgend.gov.uk

Why is it important for children to regularly attend school on time?

Taking children out of lessons harms their education and stops them from achieving their full potential. The pupils who achieve the best examination results in Bridgend County Borough are the ones with the best school attendance records.

On average, a child with 90% attendance achieves eight GCSEs at grades A* - C, while pupils with 80% attendance achieve just five.

As well as being unable to catch up with missed lessons or seeing their grades suffer, missing school can put pressure on friendships and gives children the impression that it is okay to skip lessons - it is not.

It all adds up...

A pupil who is late by just 15 minutes every day for a year will have missed two full weeks of school.

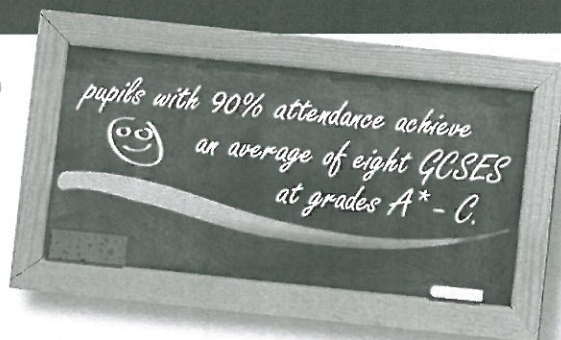
If a child's overall school attendance is 80%, they will have missed one day every week, six days every half-term, 12 days every term, 36 days every year and nearly one full year by the time they leave school!

The law: what you need to know

By law, parents and guardians of children aged five to 16 who are registered at a school are required to make sure that they attend regularly and on time. An overall attendance rate of at least 95 per cent is required – anything less and the Education Welfare Service will investigate why a child is missing class.

Parents and guardians do not have the right to remove children from school for e.g. a family holiday, a shopping trip or even a dental appointment – there are 175 non-school days in a year for these sort of activities, and just 190 where children are required to be in class.

Requests to take children out of school during term time can be made to headteachers, but may only be approved in very exceptional circumstances - anything less than full school attendance is going to affect a child's progress.



Warning!

If children do not attend school regularly, their parents or guardians could be taken to court and face fines or even imprisonment. Police officers can also approach children who are not in school and escort them back to class.

When can a child be off school?

The law states that pupils should only be off school if they are ill or taking part in a recognised religious observance. The parent or guardian of any child who is away from school **must** contact the school and inform them of the reasons for absence as unauthorised absences could result in further action being taken.

Late for school?

Pupils must be in school by the close of the register. Children who are late must sign in at reception as all late arrivals are recorded, and regular lateness will result in detention or further action.

Here to help

If you feel that there is a problem with a child's attendance at school, it's important to speak to school staff as soon as possible - the council's Education Welfare Service can also provide you with support, advice and guidance on any issues that affect their attendance at school.

More information

For help or advice about school attendance, please contact the Education Welfare Service:

Telephone: 01656 815276

Email: ewsteam@bridgend.gov.uk

Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk