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Attendance Counts at Arthur Mellows

Here at AMVC we encourage our students to be aspirational individuals, this forms a part of our core values. Good attendance at school is key to attainment and therefore enables students to achieve at their highest possible level.

Most children should have attendance rates of 97% or more. This is the equivalent of 6 days absence per year. BUT 100% is achieved by many students every year.

As parents and carers, we ask you to work with us to promote and reward good attendance and punctuality.

Attendance

As the parent you are responsible for ensuring that once your child is registered at a school that they attend regularly and punctually. Starting good habits early is much easier than trying to change poor attendance habits and battling to get out of the door on time. Be organised, have a plan, be consistent and involve your child.

There are **365 days** in the year and **190 in the school year**.

If we take the days in school away from the days in the year, we see that for **175 days** children are at home with their parents.

If a child takes leave of absence during term time, 10 school days, attendance starts to fall to only 180 days in school. If the child is then ill for 5 more days in a year, they start to be at home more than they are in school.

ABSENCE

School absence falls into two categories; **Authorised**, those for which school can give you permission for and **Unauthorised**, those which they will not.

Examples of absences which the school is unlikely to authorise can include:

- **Sickness of a parent, or other family member**
- **Inadequate clothing for school**
- **Child being used as a carer**
- **Problems with transport**
- **Non urgent medical attention**
- **School refusal or truancy**
- **Days off for birthdays, shopping trips**
- **Family holidays**

If your child is absent from school, you must notify school every day until your child returns to school.

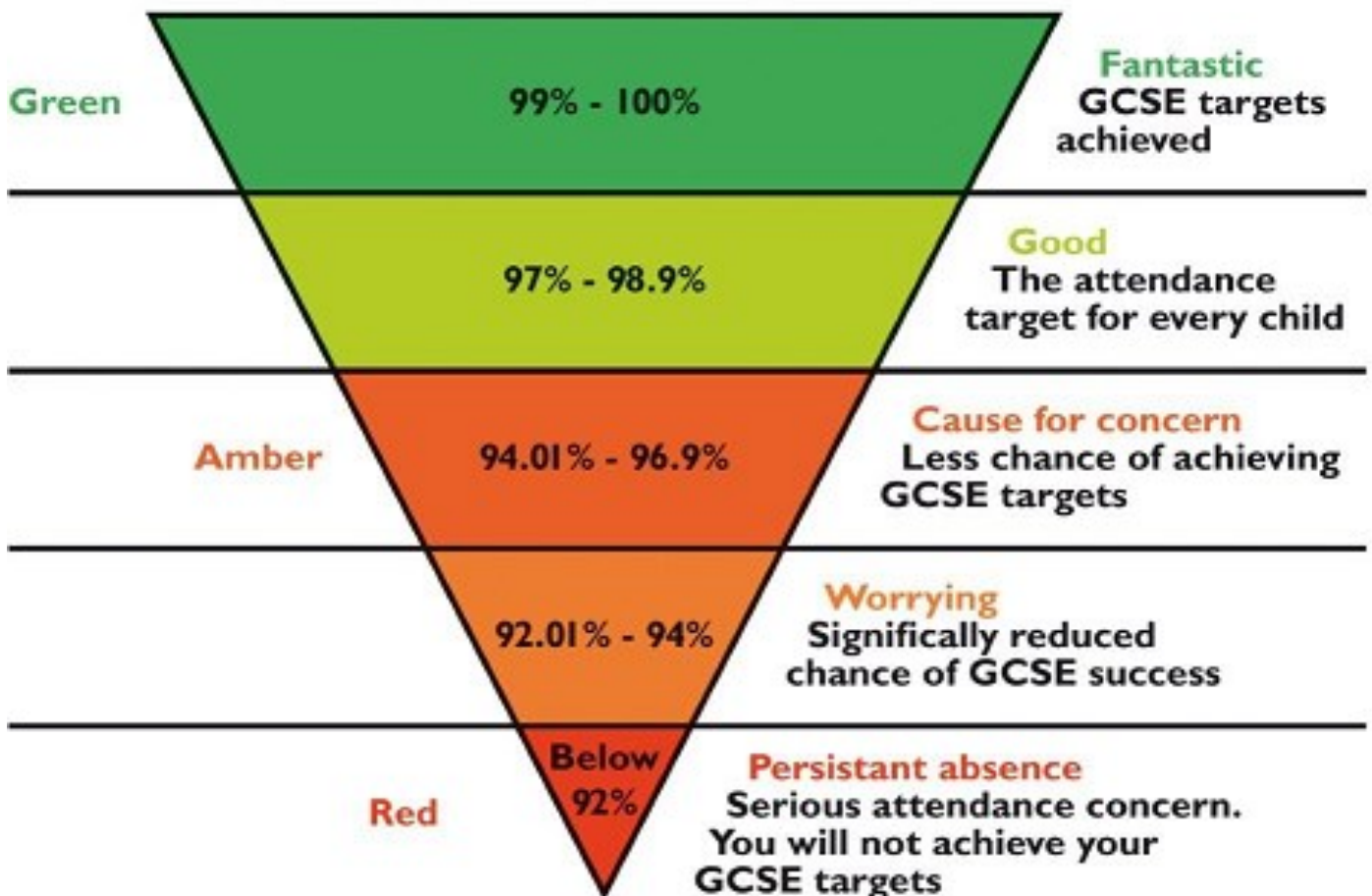
The School Attendance Officer will decide whether to authorise the absence, depending on the reason given.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

If you suspect your child may be missing school or is unhappy at school, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can work together to resolve any difficulties.

As a school we are here to support you, we understand the difficulties some parents can face and will work with you. Trust the experience of our staff and share any concerns you may have with them.

Attendance Triangle





By law all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must get a suitable, full time education. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure this happens, either by registering your child at a school or by making other arrangements which provide a full time education.

If your child fails to attend regularly — even if they miss school without you knowing — the Local Authority (LA) may take legal action against you.

School is responsible by law for reporting poor attendance to the LA. As a parent you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly. You run the risk of being issued with a penalty notice or being taken to court.

The LA may decide to prosecute a parent.

If this happens:

- Parents can be fined up to £2500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly
- Magistrates can also impose a parenting order, which means the parent has to attend a counselling and guidance course/parenting course.