



## **School Attendance Improvement Service**

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats on request by contacting 0161 770 6666. For further information please see our detailed fact sheet **Information for All**.

### **What service do we provide?**

The School Attendance Improvement Service provides specialist advice and support on all matters relating to the attendance of children and young people in all Oldham's primary and secondary schools.

### **What do we aim for?**

The School Attendance Improvement Service aims to ensure that children and young people achieve their full potential at school, help them to overcome barriers to their educational success, and ensure a better future in adult life.

### **Why go to school?**

The fact is if your child attends school regularly they are more likely to do well. Recent research by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) showed that only 27% of pupils with 88% or less attendance achieved 5 A\*-C GCSEs. Therefore, 95+% attendance means more chances and more choices when they are looking for work and developing social relationships later in life.

### **How can parents tell if there is a problem?**

Look out for these signs:

- No homework
- No letters from school about events etc
- Questions about your plans, such as, "Are you going out today?"
- A keen interest in getting to the post first

- Talking about daytime TV programmes
- Friends who are often absent from school
- Frequently feeling ill

## **When is it acceptable to miss school?**

There will be times when a child cannot go to school, for example if they are ill. However, taking time off for birthdays, to go shopping or on holiday is not acceptable. In addition, parents/carers should try to ensure that medical/dental appointments are made out of school time (and if this is not possible, ensure their child returns to school immediately after the appointment).

## **How can we help?**

### **Supporting parents**

- We provide advice and support to help you keep your child in school. This could be informal advice on improving attendance or potentially a referral to a professional parenting support programme
- We encourage good communication between school and home
- We inform parents of their legal responsibilities in relation to school attendance (regular non-attendance at school is a criminal offence, which could result in a fine, parenting order or custodial sentence)

### **Supporting pupils**

- We visit your child at your home or in school to discuss the causes of your child's attendance problems
- We support and encourage your return to school
- We will speak to school on your behalf

## **How parents can help?**

- Take an active interest in your child's school work
- Inform the school on your child's first day of absence
- Contact the School Attendance Improvement Service if you think your child is skipping school
- Ensure that your child arrives to school on time

Every school in Oldham has a named School Attendance Improvement Service worker. We can be contacted through the school or at our office.

School Attendance Improvement Service,  
Greenbank,

Fir Bank Road,  
Royton  
Oldham  
OL2 6TU  
Tel: 0161 770 6620  
Fax: 0161 620 6922  
Email: [sais@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:sais@oldham.gov.uk)

We want to provide good quality services for people in Oldham and as we are a public service you have a say in what we do. We want you to be completely satisfied with our services but to ensure this we need to know what you think. What we do best? Where could we improve things? Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Only by listening to you can we give you the service you deserve.

If you wish to make a comment about our services you can email us on [customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk) or you can phone us on 0161 770 4191 or you can write to: Complaints Officer

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