

Everyday Counts

At Rushey Mead Academy, we are committed to giving all students the best possible start in life. Regular school attendance plays a vital role in achieving this goal.

Reducing absence is a key priority for Rushey Mead Academy, Leicester City Council, and the Government. We are proud that the majority of our parents and carers ensure their children attend school regularly.

Why Should My Child Attend School Every Day?

- 100% Attendance = The Best Chance of Success
- Poor attendance affects learning.
- Very poor attendance can have a serious impact on your child's education and future opportunities.

Your Responsibility

If your child is going to be absent, you must inform the school as soon as possible. Working together, we can make sure your child doesn't miss out on the learning and experiences that come from being in school every day.

Need Support?

If you're concerned about your child's attendance or facing any challenges, please reach out to our **Attendance Team**. We're here to help. Attendance and academic success are closely linked – the more your child is in school, the more they can achieve.

Support with School Attendance

Good school attendance is essential for your child's success. If your child is absent, it's important to keep the school informed.

Reporting Absence

- Please contact the school office on **0116 266 370 (option 1)** on the first day of your child's absence and continue to do so, if your child remains off.
- Clearly state the reason for the absence.
- If we do not hear from you, the school will contact you to find out why your child is not in school.

Planned Absences

- Where possible, please let us know **in advance** of any planned absences (e.g. hospital appointments).
- Try to book medical and dental appointments outside school hours whenever possible.

Authorised Absences

- Parents/carers should always provide a reason for any absence.
- The school will determine whether an absence **can be authorised, in line with Government guidelines**.

Attendance Expectations

- There are **190 school days** in an academic year.
- That leaves 175 days for holidays, weekends, and other non-school activities.
- The Government's attendance target is over 95%. That means no more than 9.5 days of absence per year.



RUSHEY MEAD
ACADEMY



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

2025-2026

Information for

Parents and Carers

Why Does Attendance Matter?

Attending school regularly is essential for your child's success. It helps establish good habits for later life and the world of work. Consistent attendance gives your child the opportunity to:

- Make friends and feel part of the school community
- Learn new things and develop a wide range of skills
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Improve social skills
- Reach their full potential and achieve their goals

What Does 90% Attendance Really Mean?

Many people think 90% attendance sounds good — but it actually means missing four full weeks of school over the year.

A student with 90% attendance spends more time out of school than in across the academic year.

If a student maintained 90% attendance throughout their time in secondary school, they would miss 97.5 days — nearly half a school year of learning.

Attendance and the Law

As a parent or carer, you are legally responsible for ensuring your child attends school regularly.

Failure to do so — even if you're unaware your child is missing school — could result in legal action.

Celebrating Attendance

At Rushey Mead Academy, we value and celebrate excellent attendance!

- Termly Certificates are awarded to students with strong attendance.
- Celebration Assemblies recognise those who have shown outstanding commitment to being in school.

🎉 100% Attendance Reward

Students who achieve 100% attendance each term will be entered into a prize draw to win an Amazon voucher!

🏆 Half-Termly Rewards

Additional prizes will be awarded to students with the highest attendance each half term.

We believe that every day in school counts — and we're proud to celebrate those who make it a priority!

Term-Time Holidays

Family holidays should be taken during official school holiday periods. These dates are published two years in advance and can be found on the school website.

Please note that absence due to a holiday during term time is not a parental right and is not automatically authorised.

If a holiday during term time is unavoidable due to exceptional circumstances, an absence request form must be completed in advance. The principal will review the request and determine whether the absence can be authorised.

⚠️ Please be aware:

Unauthorised term-time holidays may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

Regular attendance is a legal requirement, and penalties may — and often will — be applied where attendance is not maintained

Punctuality

At Rushey Mead Academy, we strive for all students to achieve their full academic potential and aim for them to have the best possible attendance.

**missed minutes =
missed learning
= missed
opportunities!**

LATENESS ADDS UP!

Being late by 15 minutes every day = 2 weeks of school missed annually!

Oversleeping or transport delays are not valid excuses. Late students receive same-day detentions.