



Lostock Hall Academy

Educating the Future

Congratulations...

The good news is that the majority of our pupils achieved good or excellent attendance last year!

However...


We could do better. Last year there were a minority of pupils whose attendance was not satisfactory. This year we intend to significantly lower this number, so if your child has a poor attendance record we will be contacting you in the near future.

Pupil attendance at Lostock Hall Academy is good.
We believe we are capable of being outstanding.

The Department for Education has identified 95% attendance as being satisfactory. Please help our school by ensuring your child's attendance stays above this level throughout the school year.

Consequences of Poor Attendance

For pupils:

- Falling behind in lessons and coursework.
 - Grades will be affected.
 - Year 11 pupils will find it harder to find a job or college place.
 - Find it harder to make and keep friends.
 - More likely to become involved in anti-social behaviour such as committing crime, drinking or taking drugs.
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For parents:

- Regular, compulsory meetings in school.
- Penalty Notices from £60 to £120 (per parent)
- Prosecution, resulting in fines of up to £2,500 or a 3 month prison sentence.

‘It’s only a few days’...

But a few days can make a massive difference.

As a school we see good attendance as a priority
YOU MUST TOO!

We expect regular attendance (95% or above)
YOU MUST TOO!



Reasons for Absence

Acceptable reasons:


- Sickness
- Medical emergency
- Admission to hospital
- Bereavement

Unacceptable reasons:

- Cold or sore throat
- Headache
- Looking after siblings
- Going shopping with parents
- Birthdays
- Holidays

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in with a note.

We will always contact you if your child is unwell and needs to come home!



How poor attendance impacts on you

Days absent	Weeks absent	% Attendance
1		99.5%
2		99%
3		98.5%
4		98%
5	1	97.5%
10	2	95%
15	3	92.5%
20	4	90%
25	5	87.5%
30	6	85%
35	7	82.5%
40	8	80%

Holidays/Leave of Absence

From September 2013 all schools will have to change the way they view absences for holidays in term time. Any requests for absences during term time will now be referred to as 'Leave of Absence'.


**PLEASE NOTE:
All requests for leave of absence will be declined unless they are exceptional circumstances.**

HOLIDAYS IN SCHOOL TIME MAY BE LESS EXPENSIVE BUT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION IS PRICELESS.

All requests for leave of absence in term time are strongly discouraged.

Application forms for leave of absence can be requested from the school office or website and must be returned to school no later than 28 working days before the absence is due to commence.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED UNLESS THE FORM IS FULLY COMPLETED.



Every School Day Counts

There are **190** school days each year.

There are **175** days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays.


Taking a holiday in term time gives your children the message that it is ok to miss school.

If we are unable to authorise your request for leave of absence we will notify you in writing. If your child is then absent during the requested dates you may be liable for a Penalty Notice.

Penalty Notices are issued for each parent in the household. The fine is £120, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. Non payment of fines will result in prosecution for non attendance at school under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

REMEMBER

An average one week holiday in school time results in a pupil having to catch up on 25 hours of missed work when they return. Furthermore, they will never reclaim the 25 hours of teaching missed.



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Did you know?

90% attendance is the equivalent of missing 100 hour lessons.

Missing just 17 days a year can mean dropping a whole grade at G.C.S.E.

Only 10% of persistent truants achieve 5 A* to C grades at G.C.S.E.

85 million school days are lost to absence each year.

Did you know?

5 or more G.C.S.E passes can increase wages by 42%.

If school can improve overall attendance by 1% they will see a 5/6% improvement in attainment.

90% attendance = 1 half day absence a week, 4 weeks absence a year and half a year absence over 5 years!

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What Parents Can Expect From Us

Incentives:

Weekly rewards for pupils
Certificates for pupils with 100% attendance
Attendance League

Awareness:

Form Tutors discuss attendance with pupils
Attendance assemblies
Attendance workshops


Intervention:

90-95% Attendance - Key Stage Manager
Phone call home/letter to make parents aware of
deterioration in attendance.


Under 90% Attendance - Home School Liaison Officer
Phone call/letter/meeting in school/home visit.

Under 90% Attendance - Attendance Panel Meeting
Discussion with senior staff and target setting.

If targets not met – Referral to Court Officer for
Penalty Notice or Prosecution



What We Expect From Parents

- Contact school on the first morning of your child's absence and on each subsequent morning.
 - Ensure your child is only absent if absolutely unavoidable.
 - Avoid booking holidays in term time - remember that unauthorised absences often result in a penalty fine.
 - Help your child to develop a good routine.
 - Aim for 10 hours sleep a night for your child, this will make the next school day easier for them.
 - Always try to arrange any medical appointments for outside school hours.
 - Reward your child for good attendance at school - mutually agree a target and stick to it.
 - Inform school promptly of any issues which may affect attendance.
 - Ask for help if you need it - our **Home School Liaison Officer** can offer practical advice and support.
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Contact Information:

Lostock Hall Academy
01772 336293

**Family Support & Home School Liaison
Officer**

Mrs Wendy Bradley

