

Attendance Matters at Limehurst

Autumn Term 1 Newsletter



As we enter a new academic year, pupil attendance continues to be a high priority at Limehurst!

This year, improving attendance remains a key priority for both the school and the Department for Education. We will continue to work closely with families to promote good attendance, identify concerns early and provide support where needed.

Below is a snapshot of our attendance figures for the 25/26 Academic year and what they mean for our school community.

Overall Attendance Figures (2025/26)

Measure	Limehurst Overall %	Oldham Overall %	National Overall %
Overall Attendance	93.9%	94.6%	94.6%
Persistent Absence rate	17.6%	15%	13.96%

What does this data mean?

Our **overall attendance** last year was **93.9%**, which is below both the Oldham and national averages of **94.6%**. While this may seem like a small difference, every attendance session missed can have an impact on a child's learning, progress and wellbeing.

The second figure relates to **Persistent Absence**. A pupil is classed as persistently absent when their attendance falls below **90%**. This means they are missing the equivalent of at least one half-day of school every two weeks. Currently, **17.6%** of pupils at Limehurst fall into this category, compared with **15.06%** across Oldham and **13.96%** nationally.

Improving attendance and reducing the number of pupils who are persistently absent, is a key priority for the school this year. Our aim is to work in partnership with families to ensure every child attends school regularly, arrives on time and has the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential. We are committed to working with parents and carers to address any barriers to attendance and where concerns are raised about a child not wanting to attend school, we encourage families to speak to us as early as possible. By identifying and resolving any school-related issues quickly, we can provide the appropriate support and help prevent concerns from affecting attendance, wellbeing and learning.

Standard school expectation for "good attendance" is generally 95% or above. To put this in perspective, a 95% attendance rate over a typical 190-day academic year means a child has still missed about 9.5 days of school (roughly two full weeks of learning).

As a school, we have a duty of care to monitor attendance closely and to take action where concerns arise.

Attendance is reviewed regularly by school leaders and discussed with the Local Authority Attendance Officer during termly visits. Together, we monitor attendance patterns, identify pupils who may require additional support and agree appropriate actions where necessary.

What this means for Parents & Carers?

Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a suitable full-time education and attends school regularly. While we understand that children may occasionally be absent due to illness or exceptional circumstances, regular attendance is essential to support academic achievement, social development and emotional wellbeing.

Our aim is not simply to improve attendance figures, but to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive in school. We recognise that, at times, families may face challenges that can impact attendance. For this reason, we are committed to working proactively with parents and carers, offering support, guidance and intervention at the earliest opportunity.

As part of our improving attendance project, we aim to create a positive attendance culture by

-  **Parent / Carer Communication** - We will write to parents and carers whenever a child's attendance falls below expected levels. These communications are intended to keep families informed, raise awareness of any concerns at an early stage and provide an opportunity for the school and home to work together to support improved attendance.
-  **Parent / Carer meetings** - We will hold more attendance meetings with parents & Carers. These meetings aim to create personalised attendance action plans for ALL pupils whose attendance falls below expectations.
-  **Support Early Intervention** - If your child faces difficulties attending school, please get in touch with us. We're here to support you and together we can look for solutions.
-  **Sharing regular updates** - we will be sharing insights, tips and success stories via our website, email and social media channels.
-  **Celebrating good attendance** - we will continue to positively reward good attendance and attendance improvement. This includes termly prize draws to win 'Children's Love2shop' vouchers for all pupils who have had 100% attendance within the term & annual prizes for all pupils with 100% attendance all year! We hope to see lots of pupils receiving attendance awards this year!

We understand that receiving a letter regarding your child's attendance can sometimes be worrying. Please be assured that attendance letters, text messages, telephone calls and meeting invitations are not intended to criticise families. Instead, they form part of the school's statutory responsibility to monitor attendance, identify any concerns at an early stage and ensure that every child is receiving their full entitlement to education.

We kindly ask that parents and carers treat all school staff with courtesy and respect when discussing attendance matters. Our office team and attendance staff are carrying out procedures that are required by the school, the Local Authority and the Department for Education. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance correspondence, we encourage you to contact us so that we can discuss these constructively and work together to support your child.

We look forward to working together to improve pupil attendance at Limehurst and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive!

Let's Make Everyday Count!