

A note on school attendance and punctuality.

At St Mark's school it is expected that pupils show high levels of school attendance and are on time every day. Parents can help by making sure that their children are ready to start school in a positive way and have everything they need for the day. Please note that although the school gate is open from 8.30am, the playground is not supervised and parents must wait with their children until school begins.

If your child is late for school please make sure you sign in at the front desk and let the school know the reason for lateness. It is also equally important that children are collected on time at the end of the school day. Teachers are busy with school duties once the class has been dismissed.

If your child is unwell please let the school know as soon as possible and keep the school informed throughout your child's illness. Please also note that we do not authorise extra holidays during term time and that children are at risk of being fined or losing their school place if they take leave of absence during term time.

The following classifications are used in your child's end of year school reports:

Attendance Categories	98%-100%	Excellent
	96%-97.9%	Good
	95.9% -90%	Needs improving
	Below 90%	Persistent absentee

Punctuality Categories	0-3 late marks in a year	Excellent
	4-9 late marks in a year	Good
	10 or more late marks in a year	Needs improving

As a school, we expect parents and carers to ensure that their child achieves maximum possible attendance and that any problems that prevent this are identified and acted on promptly. Children's attendance is carefully monitored and families can be referred to Islington Family First when issues are not resolved.

School education lays the vital foundation of a child's life and research clearly demonstrates the link between regular attendance and educational progress. If you have any concerns regarding school attendance and punctuality, please ask to speak to our School Home Support Practitioner, Ayesha Taylor or ask to see our Attendance and Punctuality policy for more information.