

Attendance

Schools provide the educational opportunities for children who have a legal right to education.

In order for young people to get the best out of their education it is essential that they attend regularly and on time.

Children should only be absent from school when it really is unavoidable. If your child cannot go to school let the school know the reason why as soon as possible. If your child is ill, tell the school what is wrong and when your child may be back at school.

You should not allow your child to miss school:

- to care for brothers and sisters
- to translate for family or friends
- to go shopping
- to spend long weekends away with relatives or at your caravan
- to go on holiday
- to go on extended leave
- as a birthday treat
- to go to the airport.

As a parent, you may face serious consequences if you do not ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time. If your child has attendance of 90 per cent or below then he/she will be identified as having Persistent Absence and be very closely tracked. You could receive a penalty notice (a fine) or be prosecuted and if found guilty receive a criminal conviction. The local authority may also consider applying to the Family Proceedings Court for an Education Supervision Order.

If you are concerned that your child may be missing school and may be truanting:

- check the attendance with the school
- speak to your child and try and find out why he/she is missing school
- make an appointment to see the head of year or form tutor
- contact the Tower Hamlets Behaviour & Attendance Support Service on 020 7364 3450.

Truancy Patrols

Attendance and Welfare Advisors, Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers and Police Officers regularly patrol the streets in Tower Hamlets. If they see children or young people, they stop them and ask for the reasons why they are not in school. Truants are returned to school and their parents are then contacted so that they can ensure their child attends regularly in future. If children are seen on the streets with a parent or adult, they will also be stopped and questioned by the Truancy Patrol. If the reasons for absence from school are not acceptable, parents may be advised of their legal duty to send their child to school and may be warned of the consequences of their child not being in school every day on time. Schools are informed of all children stopped by Truancy Patrols, including those who are with their parents, and may be issued with a penalty notice (fine).

Children do best educationally when their schooling is uninterrupted. EVERY DAY MATTERS.