

## Absence from school

If a child needs to be absent from school through sickness, **the school should be notified by 9.00 a.m. on each day of absence.** If a child cannot participate in PE or games or go outdoors at break time, please let us know. If your child has been absent from school with an infectious disease, please check the necessary period of confinement prior to your child returning to school. In cases of **sickness or diarrhoea**, your child should not return to school until **at least 48 hours** from the last bout.

**Parents should avoid disruption to their child's primary education by absences that are avoidable. Research suggests that children do not catch up on the learning they have missed and our experience bears this out.** Any unauthorised absences have, by law, to be included in information about the school made available to the general public. Unauthorised absence in the academic year 2023/24 was 0.3%.

Schools are now required to refuse requests for holiday absence in term time and headteachers may grant a leave of absence in **exceptional circumstances only**. If you believe that your circumstances are exceptional you should request an Absence Request Form from the school office at least 2 weeks in advance. In considering a request, the school will take into account the child's age, the time of year of the absence and circumstances of the absence. The headteacher will also consider the child's stage of education, progress and overall attendance record. The headteacher will not authorise absence unless your circumstances are exceptional. Examples of 'exceptional circumstances' may include forces personnel on leave from a foreign posting, parents' employment restrictions (accompanied by a letter from the employer) or **significant** family events, all of which would need individual consideration.

The overall attendance figure at Skelton School in 2023/24 (up to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024) was 96.7%.