

Attendance



By law, all children of compulsory school age (normally 5 to 16) must receive a suitable full-time education. As a parent, you have a legal responsibility to make sure your children receive a suitable, full-time education. Once your child is registered at a school, you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. This means your child should not have sessions of unauthorised absence. You may be fined if you don't do this.

INSET days



Schools have 5 INSET days each academic year. On an INSET day, schools are closed and your child should not attend.

INSET days are used for staff training purposes. Check with your child's school to find out when they have scheduled their INSET days.

Free school meals



Universal Infant Free School Meals All government-funded schools offer free school meals to every pupil in Reception (Year R), Year 1 and Year 2.

Free School Meals for older children Children from Year 3 to Year 11 are entitled to Free School Meals if you receive one of a range of different benefits.

You can check your eligibility and apply online for Free School Meals for your child(ren) [here](#) where you can also see the menus in various languages. You can request a special diet option, including Halal.

Transport to school

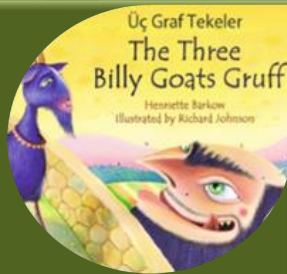


Your child will qualify for free transport from their home to and from school **if**

- they attend the nearest catchment school or one nearer to your home **and**
- the distance is more than two miles for children up to the age of 8 OR more than three miles for children from age 8 to 16.

You will need to apply for transport if your child meets the criteria.

Homework



Homework will be set for most children. You can find out what to expect by checking your child's school website or by asking your child's teacher. You should make time to read at home with your child every day, starting when they are in Year R. Your child will bring home both a reading book and a Reading Record. Share the book with your child, talk about the pictures and help your child read the words – if there are any words. Fill in the Reading Record when you've read with your child so the teacher knows you are doing this at home. You may also get sent home key words to practise with your child.

Parents' evenings & school reports



You will be invited to attend a parents' evening at least termly and it is important that you go. Most schools offer time slots and you can choose a time to suit you. If you have any questions about your child's learning, you can ask these when you meet your child's teacher. At the end of the school year, you should also expect to receive a report about your child's progress. Your child will automatically move up to the next Year Group regardless of their progress – in the UK, children do not repeat a school year.

Holidays in term time



Where possible, all parents/carers are expected to take their family holidays during the school holidays so as not to disrupt their children's education. Education law states that parents **do not** have a right to take their child out of school for a holiday during term time. Only in exceptional circumstances may a headteacher grant permission for leave; it is the headteacher's decision if the absence is exceptional and how many days to approve.

Links



[Positive behaviour management](#) strategies in different languages
[Bringing up your child bilingually](#) in different languages
 Information about [school attendance](#) and holidays in term time
 Information about [transport to school](#)
[School holiday dates](#)
 Information about [Free School Meals](#)