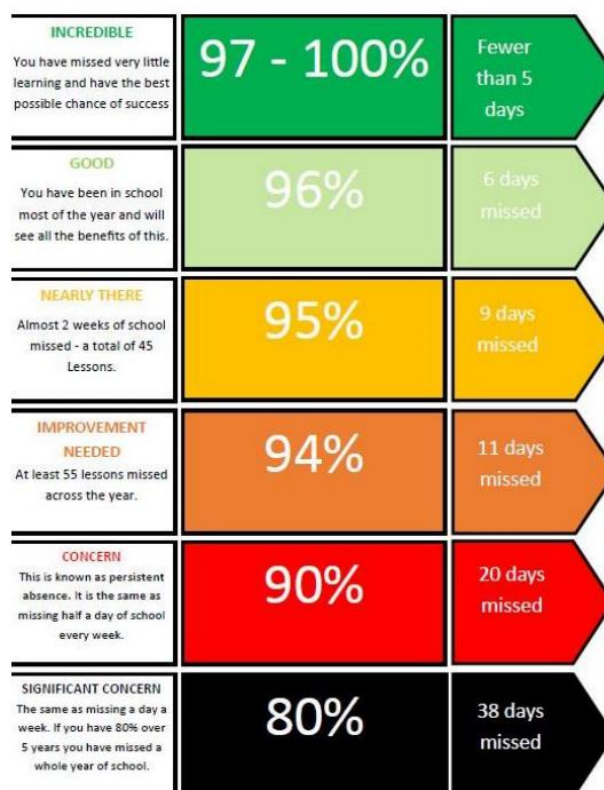


Attendance at Grace Mary Primary School

School attendance

At Grace Mary Primary School, we believe that attending school regularly is vitally important to your child's future. If your child is absent from school, they will be missing lessons and learning opportunities. National research has proven that children who miss school frequently will fall behind with their schoolwork, which has a negative impact on exam performance and can lead to poor social skills and friendship issues. Children who are persistently absent from school are also at increased risk of becoming involved with anti-social behaviour and crime.

We believe that every pupil should aim to achieve as close to 100% attendance, as possible, and robust systems are in place to support families and children in achieving this goal. We promote a strong work ethic and prepare our pupils for life beyond school. We want to maximise the future chances for all children. We do recognise that children can be unwell. If you are unsure if your child should be at school, please call us to discuss. Please note that children should stay off school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 48 hours since their last bout of illness. The Wellbeing Team and your child's class teacher work closely with others in the school team to monitor student attendance, support families and implement systems that challenge poor attendance.



Useful information on attendance

Government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK, which say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.



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Email: office@gracemary.sandwell.sch.uk Website: www.gracemary.co.uk

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Non-attendance

If a school identifies a child as having low attendance, letters expressing their concern will be sent by the school and to ask parents to get in touch. The Local Authority may also be informed. Within the letter, the school may request a meeting to advise parents of legal responsibilities. We then examine any issues that may be causing poor attendance and draw up an action plan to improve the situation if necessary. If there is no improvement in the child's attendance, legal proceedings may follow in line with our Attendance Policy.

Leave in term time

The Government has renewed appeals to parents not to take their children out of school during term time. The Governors and Head teacher of the school support this, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Each application will be considered. If the application is not agreed and the absence occurs, the dates will be unauthorised. Parents will be notified of any

decision in writing. This notification may be hand delivered to the parent or posted to the parents' home address.

As a school we are asked to inform you that, in line with Sandwell Council Policy, unauthorised absence may be subject to a penalty notice fine to both parents.

As a reminder, Grace Mary Primary School has taken the action to combine all 5 INSET days to one week i.e. Monday 1st to Friday 5th June 2026 (added on to the May Half Term holiday) to give families the opportunity to more affordable holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Willetts

Assistant Head Teacher for Inclusion



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