

## **W**hy is it important for children to be at school every day?

It is more important than ever to have a good education, Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

Children must attend school regularly so that

- They keep up with the school work.
- They make friends and enjoy the social side of school life.
- They have a better chance of getting a good job in the future.

## **W**hat does the law say?

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must get a suitable, full-time education. As a parent or carer you are responsible for making sure this happens, by registering your child at a school.

Once your child is registered at a school you are responsible for making sure he or she attends regularly.

## **W**hat about authorised absences?

There may be times when your child has to miss school because:

- He or she is ill, then you should let the school know straight away.
- He or she has a medical or dental appointment in school time.

**Children must attend school every day and it is your responsibility to make sure they do.**

## **W**hat about holidays in term time?

You should not expect your child's school to agree to an absence for a holiday during term time, particularly if it is for more than ten days. Holidays should be taken in school holiday time.

- Only ask for time off during exam or test periods in exceptional circumstances.
- Always consult the school before booking travel for holidays in term time, as permission may not be granted.

## **W**hat happens if my child does not attend school regularly?

- We will telephone you on the first day of absence. You should write a note to say why your child was absent when they return to school.
- If a child is persistently absent you will be asked to attend a meeting at the school.
- If the absences continue the Educational Welfare Officer will be informed and your child will be referred to the Harrow High School Attendance Panel.
- The Local Authority has the right to prosecute parents who allow their children to absent from school.

## **A**t what age can children leave school?

By law, compulsory education for all children in England ends on the last Friday in June in the school year in which the child reaches 16. Your child cannot leave school until that date.

## What can I do to help?

- If you suspect that your child may be missing school or is unhappy at school, you should contact the school
- Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of missing school, but be on the alert for any particular reasons for non-attendance, such as bullying or problems with school work and discuss these with the school.
- If your child is ill or absent for any other reason, contact the school on the first day of absence.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time for both the morning and afternoon sessions.
- Take an interest in your child's education. Ask them about their day and praise and encourage their achievements at school.