

# Seghill First School

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Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to all families about attendance and punctuality.

Our school attendance for this year so far is **92.4%**. If we score 92.4% in a test, we would all be pleased with this. However, in terms of attendance, 92.4% is very low.

We know that many of our parents and carers prioritise their child's attendance and only keep them off school when it is absolutely necessary. We are very grateful for your ongoing support.

However, when comparing our attendance to all other measures, it is very low. Please see the comparisons in the table and the explanations.

<b>Our current school attendance</b>	92.4%
<b>Comparison to all schools in Northumberland*</b>	Ranked 113 <sup>th</sup> out of 127 schools
<b>Comparison to all schools in the country*</b>	Ranked in the lowest 10% of all schools in the country
<b>Attendance of all primary schools (average)*</b>	94.9%
<b>Attendance of similar schools 2024 2025*</b>	94.6%
<b>Attendance baseline improvement expectation*</b>	94.8%

**\*This comparison data has been provided by the Department for Education.**

## Comparing our attendance to all schools in Northumberland

We are ranked 113<sup>th</sup> out of 127 schools. This means that only 14 schools in Northumberland have worse attendance than our school.

## Comparing our attendance to all schools in the country

We are ranked in the lowest 10% of all schools in the country. This means that 90% of other schools have better attendance than ours. Our attendance is 2.5% lower than the average attendance of all primary schools.

## Comparing our attendance to similar schools

Our attendance is compared to similar schools- this means schools with similar characteristics as ours, such as the proportion of children with additional needs and the proportion of children eligible for Free School Meals. Our attendance is 2.2% lower than attendance of similar schools.

## Current positives

**44 children** have **good attendance**- 95% or higher. This is 49% of our children.

In **Year 4**, 8 children have **95% or higher attendance**. This is 73% of the class.

## Current issues

Our attendance is **lower** than the average attendance of all schools in Northumberland, **lower** than the average attendance of all primary schools and **lower** than the average attendance of all similar schools. Our attendance is ranked in the **lowest 10%** of all schools in the country.

In **Reception** 8 children have attendance **less than 90%**. This is 40% of the class.

18 children are **persistent absentees**. This is 20% of our pupils. Being a persistent absentee means that attendance is less than 90%. These children are missing the equivalent of half a day every week.

12 children have attendance of between **80% and 90%**. This is 13% of our pupils. These children are also persistent absentees and are missing the equivalent of between one day and half a day every week.

2 children are **severely absent**. This is 2% of our pupils. Being severely absent means that attendance is **less than 50%**. These children are missing the equivalent of at least two and a half days every week.

## Reasons for absence

We know that there are very often **valid reasons** why children are absent from school, which are mainly **common childhood illnesses**. We do not want children who are poorly to be sent into school.

Our attendance figures are adversely affected by other absences, when there is **no genuine reason** for absence. **Holidays** during term time are also a factor, plus “**secret holidays**” when children are taken out of school for a holiday and parents tell us that their child is ill.

## What do we need to do to improve attendance?

We must address our attendance now. Our **Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectation is 94.8%** by the end of the year. This has been set by the Department for Education. We must achieve this target. We are currently 2.4% below this target.

Only around **half of our children** have **good attendance**- 95% or better. Unfortunately, the good attendance of this group is **adversely affected** by the **poor attendance** of other pupils, which drags our attendance figure down to such a low level that we are ranked in the bottom 10% of all schools in the country.

We will be setting **attendance targets** for all pupils. Children who have good attendance will have a target to ensure that their good attendance continues. Children with less than 95% attendance will have a target to improve their attendance. Targets for children who have additional medical needs will reflect their individual needs, such as absence due to attending medical appointments.

We will be offering **attendance drop ins** for parents and carers to come in and discuss their child's attendance and what we can do to support you to improve their attendance.

We will continue to **celebrate and reward good attendance**. We will be adding **improved attendance certificates** to our half termly Celebration Assemblies for children who are achieving their improvement targets.

We hope we can work together to maintain the good attendance of many of our pupils and improve the attendance of all other pupils so all of our children can make the most of every opportunity that we offer them every day at school. If you would like to talk to us about your child's attendance, please make an appointment at the school office.

Yours sincerely  
Miss Chappell  
Headteacher