



Attendance Matters

Autumn 2 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this term's **Attendance Matters** update. As always, we want to thank all our families for the incredible support you continue to give in helping your children arrive in school every day, ready to learn. Good attendance truly is a team effort, and we hugely appreciate the strong partnership we have with you.

We are delighted to share that **Amotherby Community Primary School has received an FFT National Attendance Award**. This award is given to schools whose attendance places them in the **top 25% of all schools nationally**. FFT (Fischer Family Trust) analyses school data across the country, and their awards recognise schools where pupils attend significantly more often than the national picture. This is a fantastic achievement for our school and reflects the hard work, commitment and shared values of our children, staff and families. Thank you for playing such a vital role in this success.

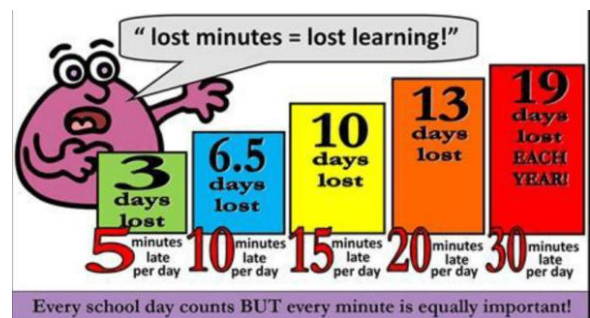
Regular attendance remains essential. Missing even small amounts of learning can add up quickly, leading to gaps that are difficult to close. Every day in school matters, and every minute matters.

Minutes Late Add Up to Lost Learning

- 5 minutes late each day = over 3 full days lost each year
- 10 minutes late each day = nearly 7 days of lost learning
- 15 minutes late each day = around 10 days of learning missed
- 30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost each year

When children arrive late, they often miss the calm start of the day, morning routines, early interventions, and the introduction to the first lesson. This can lead to children feeling unsettled, embarrassed, or behind before they've even started.

At Amotherby, we want every child to begin the day positively and ready to learn — and being on time makes a big difference.



It is not only absences that affect achievement. Being late to school means missed instructions, reduced learning time and a disrupted start to the day. Just 10 minutes late every day adds up to over an hour of lost learning each week, or nearly 38 hours over the school year. Please continue to support us by ensuring children are in school on time and ready to learn.

If You're Struggling with Morning Routines or Punctuality

We understand that mornings can be challenging for many families. Small changes at home can really help. Here are some reliable sources of advice and practical tips:

- **NHS – Tips for a Healthy Bedtime Routine:**
[Healthy sleep routines](#)
- **BBC Parenting – School anxiety and refusal**
[School anxiety and refusal: How parents can help their child get through tough times - BBC Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)
- **BBC Parenting – Getting Out of the Door on Time:**
[Back to School: Real parents' tips on last-minute nerves and getting to the gates on time - BBC Bitesize](#)

If punctuality is becoming difficult, please let us know. We are here to help — whether through support with routines, wellbeing, or liaising with external services. A small conversation early on can prevent issues from becoming bigger and helps us work together to support your child.

Term-Time Absence – A Reminder

Children should only miss school in unavoidable circumstances such as illness or exceptional situations approved in advance by the Headteacher.

We are unable to authorise holidays during term time, and schools are required by North Yorkshire Council to refer cases of unauthorised absence—particularly 5 days or more—for possible Fixed Penalty Notices.

We know this can be challenging, and we appreciate your understanding and support in helping us apply the policy fairly for all.

Upcoming Attendance Meetings

Next term we will be inviting families to attendance meetings where a pupil's attendance has fallen below **90%**. These meetings are supportive, not punitive—they give us the opportunity to work together, identify any barriers, and make sure your child can get back on track.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or wellbeing, please reach out early. We are here to help.

Thank you for your continued partnership and the care you show in helping your child attend school every day, ready to learn. We truly appreciate your efforts, and we are here to work alongside you whenever you need us. Together, we can ensure every child at Amotherby has the very best start, every single day.