



Derby City Council

**School Attendance:
Information for Parents**

**This is to inform you that
Education Welfare Service
and Saint John Fisher
Catholic Voluntary Academy
are going to implement a**

**FAST TRACK
TO PROSECUTION**

**PARENTS COULD BE FINED
up to £2,500 OR be sentenced
to
12 weeks IMPRISONMENT**

**IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU
READ THIS INFORMATION
CAREFULLY**

**April
2021**

**What does the law say about
school attendance?**

The Law says that parents of children aged between 5-16, who are on a school roll, must make sure that their child goes to school both regularly and punctually. This means that children are in school when they should be and that they arrive at school in time for both morning and afternoon sessions.

A child continues to be of compulsory school age until the last Friday in June in the school year that they reach the age of 16.

If a child who is registered at a school fails to attend regularly and there are no legitimate reasons, then parents are guilty of an offence under section 444 of the Education Act 1996 even if they are missing school without your knowledge.

If convicted, parents will be liable to a fine of up to £2500/and or a prison sentence of up to 3 months. Magistrates may also impose a Parenting Order.

It is your legal responsibility to ensure that your child attends school regularly and punctually each time the school is open. Should parents fail to do this, then information may be placed before the Magistrates and, if convicted, they could be issued with a Parenting Order, fined up to a maximum of £2500 and/or receive 12 weeks imprisonment.

If you have any questions regarding this information, contact your child's school or the Education Welfare Service on 01332 641448

People Services Directorate
Ashtree House
218 Osmaston Road
Derby
DE23 8JX

**Saint John Fisher Catholic
Voluntary Academy**

Your child needs to arrive on
time for their entry time.

**EYFS/KS1 08:40
KS2 08:50**



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What is FAST TRACK?

In cases where parents/carers have not ensured their child/children's regular attendance at school, or may not have co-operated with school and/or the Education Welfare Service it may be decided to place them on 'Fast Track'.

Parents/carers who are placed on 'Fast Track' to prosecution will:

- Receive a Legal Advice Notice including an invitation to an Attendance Meeting.
- Be expected to attend a meeting at school where attendance issues will be discussed, and a contract may be signed. Failure to attend the meeting will not avoid the Fast Track process
- Have 6 weeks in which to ensure their child's attendance is **95%** - school average, or at least **90%** which the Persistent Absence Threshold.
- Be written to at the 6-week review to inform you of the progress and outcome

If attendance is not maintained during the time period, the matter may be brought to the attention of the Court. If 90-95% is achieved, your child/children's attendance will be closely monitored until attendance is no longer a concern.

Days off school add up to lost learning

365
DAYS
IN
EACH
YEAR

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR → 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments					
190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR 190 days for your child's education	10 days absence 180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	29 days absence Half a term missed 161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence 143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
GOOD Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		WORRYING Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child. Risk of Court Action	