

SPARKENHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Person responsible for policy: Senior Attendance Champion, Deputy Head (Pastoral) Mrs Cooper.

For day-to-day messages about attendance, please contact our school office by ringing 0116 2512686, or send us a message on WEDUC.

Members of the School's Senior Leadership Team will be on gate duty every day. Parents can discuss concerns with them as necessary.

1. SCHOOL TARGETS FOR ATTENDANCE

Sparkenhoe sets a whole school target every year for attendance. This is published on our website along with the actual attendance for previous years.

In order to achieve the best possible attendance for our school, we need the best possible attendance from our pupils. This means that we will listen, empathise and support families when children have absences, but we cannot tolerate absence that is concerning. We will consider information from parents about the reason for a child being absent, but will not automatically authorise all absences. This policy sets out the school's response to attendance and absences.

2. EXPECTATIONS AND DAILY ROUTINES

We expect all children registered at Sparkenhoe Community Primary School to attend every day when school is open, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so.

We do all we can to encourage all children to attend, and we put in place appropriate support for families when needed. We believe that the most important factor in promoting good attendance is development of positive attitudes towards school. To this end, we strive to make our school a happy and rewarding experience for all children. We also make the best provision we can for children who, for whatever reason, are prevented from coming to school.

Under the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2023, the governing body are responsible for making sure the school keeps an attendance register that records which pupils are present at the start of both the morning and the afternoon sessions of the school day. This register will also indicate whether an absence was authorised or unauthorised.

School opens the gates at 8:30 in the morning and children are expected to be in class for the **morning** register at 8:40. Children who arrive between 8:40 and 9:10 will be marked at late arrivals.

The law makes clear that children who arrive in school 30 minutes after the register is taken i.e. after 9:10 are absent when the register is taken and will be marked as absent for the whole morning session.

We open the gates for home time at 3:10 each day.

Children who are late, miss out on the important initial learning activities of the day. Children who are regularly late fall behind in their learning. Their day is disrupted, as is the learning of the rest of the class, whose attention is disrupted by the arrival of latecomers.

If you are 10 minutes late every day, your child will lose almost 7 days of learning a year!

Regular attendance at school promotes well-being. It gives children the best chance of learning and reaching their potential. Pupils should attend school every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Good attendance and punctuality are important because children:

- Get on better with learning and other children.
- Cope better with school routines, work and friendships.

- Find learning easier because they do not miss out.
- Are more successful moving between primary school, secondary school, higher education and employment or training.
- Are known to be safe and well.

Research shows a direct link between high attendance and doing well at school.

All children have a right to an education. Missing school or being frequently late for school means children miss out on vital lessons and learning time.

The table below shows how having days off impacts on attendance:

Attendance (%)	Days missed	Weeks missed	Lessons missed
100%	0	0	0
95%	9 %	2 (approx.)	40
90%	19	4 (approx.)	80
85%	28 1/4	6 (approx.)	120
80%	38	8 (approx.)	160
75%	47 1/2	9 ½ (approx.)	200
70%	57	11 ½ (approx.)	230

If children have 80% attendance for 5 years, that is the equivalent to missing a whole year of school.

3. <u>BEFORE SCHOOL CARE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE</u>

Before School Care is available from 7.30 am until classes start at 8.30 am. Children get a healthy breakfast which ensures they are ready for the school day.

We also run a free Breakfast Club which is available to ALL children. This is from <u>8.00 am</u> until 8.30 am, last arrival 8:20am.

After School Care is available from 3.10 pm until 5.15 pm.

Charges for these services are available on the school website, also detailed in Appendix 2.

4. SHARING ATTENDANCE INFORMATION WITH THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

We celebrate attendance in awards assemblies, certificates are awarded to classes with the highest attendance each week.

Termly letters are sent to parents where attendance is or has started to be a concern.

Attendance is published in WEDUC, you can see your child's levels of attendance there.

We will send out regular updates on the school's current overall attendance on WEDUC.

Where a child's attendance is below 95%, parents will be informed that it is being closely monitored.

Where a child's attendance is below 90%, parents will be informed and notified that further absences will not be automatically authorised. The school's <u>Senior Attendance Champion</u> will consider each absence carefully.

Where attendance is an on-going concern, our <u>Senior Attendance Champion</u> will consider if an Attendance Support Plan is needed and will discuss this with parents.

We will meet with families where there are concerns, we will listen, review and work with families to ensure that the support we offer is effective.

Where a child's attendance is monitored on an Attendance Support Plan we will share any improvements in attendance with the pupil and parents. This might be in a review of the plan, a face to face meeting or a letter.

5. ABSENCES

Any time a child is not in school, or on an activity organised by school is classed as an absence from school. Absences can be recorded as either an authorised absence or an unauthorised absence.

Authorised absences:

- We classify an absence as authorised when a child has been away from school for a legitimate reason and the school has received information about the absence from a parent or guardian. For example, if a child has been unwell, you the parent write a note, email the school office, send a WEDUC message or telephone the school office to explain the absence.
- Where a family takes a day for religious observance, we can only authorise 1 day for each religious festival.
- Medical appointments should be reported to the school office and letters or appointment evidence should be shared with us.
- Explaining an absence or ringing the school does not automatically mean the absence is authorised. Repeated odd days off for illness are monitored by the Senior Attendance Champion (Mrs Cooper) who may ask for proof of illness before an absence is authorised.
- Only the school can decide if an absence will be authorised. Parents and carers do not have this
 authority. Consequently, not all absences reported by parents and carers will be classified as
 authorised. Parents of children who have low attendance will be asked to meet with Mrs Cooper and
 possibly be asked to provide proof of illness (this could be an appointment card or text, an
 appointment letter, sight of a prescription or medication. We do not expect parents to pay for any
 evidence,) to the school to have an absence authorised.

Unauthorised absences:

We classify an absence as unauthorised when:

- a child is away from school without the permission of the school or a parent.
- a child is away from school and no reason is given to the school.
- a child is away from school without good reason, even with the support of a parent.

If a child's attendance falls below the persistent absence level, <90% then we will record all further absences as unauthorised unless we have clear evidence to support an absence.

6. IF A CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

- If a child is ill or going to be away from school, parents should contact the school office (letter / email / WEDUC/ telephone / visiting the school office in person).
- If no information is received, then we will send a WEDUC message or we will make a phone call to confirm the reason for an absence. If no reply is received and no reason given for the absence, then the absence may be unauthorised. We will continue to attempt to contact families where we are not given information about an absence.
- It is essential that school knows why children are absent for safeguarding of all children.
- Parents must keep informing the school if their child continues to be ill.
- A message may be sent to the school prior to the day of absence, e.g. if a child has a medical appointment.
- If there is any doubt about the whereabouts of a child, the office staff will attempt to contact parents / carers as above.
- Schools have to give Local Authorities the name and address of sick pupils who they believe will
 miss 15 consecutive or cumulative days.
- If other services such as Early Help or Social Services are working with a family. Any absences will be shared with them.

Registers are monitored daily to identify pupils who are absent. If appropriate, a home visit will be made by members of school staff. If there are serious concerns about the safety of a child, the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and/or the police will be called to conduct a home visit.

7. REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leaves of absence have a big impact on individual children's education and also have a big impact on the school's overall attendance. All requests for leave of absence need to be made to the school BEFORE you book any tickets. Please contact the school office and request a meeting with the Senior Attendance Champion, Mrs Cooper. An appointment will be made where an application form will be completed. We will then confirm the outcome of the application in writing.

Government legislation means that:

- Schools are not allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school during term time for a holiday.
- Requests for leave can only be granted by schools if there are exceptional circumstances and holidays are not considered exceptional.
- Evidence will be required to support requests for leave.
- Penalty Notice fines will be issued by the Local Authority for unauthorised term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days or 4 days where the absence immediately precedes/includes a 5th day which is a school closure day (e.g. school holiday / INSET / enforced closure) or any form of absence and may be issued for fewer days where this has happened before.
- If an absence is taken without authorisation, the following will apply:
 - For a first unauthorised absence in a 3 year period, a penalty notice of £160 per child, per parent (discounted to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days) will be issued.
 - For a second absence within a 3 year period, the fine will be £180 per child, per parent.
 - For repeated absences, your case may be referred by the Local Authority directly to the Magistrates Court.
 - If there are 20 or more days of absence, your child may be removed from the school roll resulting in you having to reapply for a school place.
 - If there are 20 or more school days of absence due to holidays or trips away, this may result in cases proceeding straight to the Magistrates' Court.
 - If your child has other unauthorised absences, of 10 or more half days in a period of 10 weeks, then you can also be fined as above. This includes absences where you have not informed the school why your child is away.
- Reminders of absence procedures and extended absence procedures will be sent to parents
 /carers on admission to school and at least annually. See appendix for examples of leaflets sent to
 parents / carers.

8. REPEATED UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES AND SUPPORT TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

We will contact the parent or carer of any child who has an unauthorised absence. If a child has a repeated number of unauthorised absences:

- The parents or carers will be asked to visit the school and discuss the situation with the **Senior Attendance Champion**, Mrs Cooper.
- If appropriate, we can refer you to other local agencies such as Early Help or the School Nurse service to support your family to improve your child's attendance.
- Your child's attendance will then be monitored and if there is no improvement an attendance plan will be agreed with you. This will be monitored. Targets for attendance will be set for a 3-6 week period initially.
- If your child's attendance does still not improve, then we will refer your case to the Local Authority Education Welfare Service (EWO) for further support.
- If there is still no improvement, the EWO can progress the case to a Penalty Notice or Court Action.

• If there is improvement in attendance this will be celebrated with pupil and parents. Rewards identified in the School's behaviour policy will be awarded to children with improving attendance.

9. PERSISTENT ABSENTEES

These are children whose attendance is below 90%. All children with attendance below 90% are monitored closely. If attendance does not improve, parents will be invited to a meeting with the **Senior Attendance Champion**, Mrs Cooper. All absences after this meeting will be monitored and we will only authorise future absences if we are certain the absence is for a genuine reason. Referral to the School Nurse service may be sought for a child with ongoing health issues.

Support plans may be agreed with parents for any children who have attendance below 90%

Children with attendance below 90% will be discussed with the Education Welfare Officer on a regular basis.

If a child's attendance falls below 50% we will work closely with families and the Education Welfare Officer to ensure that the appropriate support is put in place.

10. PUNCTUALITY

Children who arrive in school after the registers close at 8.40 am, are recorded as late. Any children who arrive after 9.10 am are U coded which means they are marked with an unauthorised absence for the whole morning session. As part of the normal monitoring of attendance, we contact parents where children are often late. We work together with parents to improve the situation.

11. MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the governors to monitor overall attendance, and they will receive a termly report from the head teacher via the Headteacher Report. The governing body also has the responsibility for this policy, and for seeing that it is carried out. The governors will therefore examine closely the information provided to them, and seek to ensure that our attendance figures are as high as they should be.

The school will keep accurate attendance records on file for a minimum period of three years.

Schools now have to share schools' attendance data with the department of Education on a daily basis. This is done electronically via the WONDE system.

We monitor attendance on an individual pupil level and a school level to identify when issues arise. Where there are concerns, action is taken as outlined in this policy to improve attendance.

Class teachers, office staff together with the Senior Attendance Champion, will be responsible for monitoring attendance in each class and for following up absences in the appropriate way. If there are concerns about a child's absence, they will contact the school office immediately. If there is a longer-term general worry about the attendance of a particular child, this will be monitored by the Senior Attendance Champion, who will arrange contact with the parents or carers.

This policy is a working document and will be reviewed at least annually.

Attendance – graduated response



School follows attendance policy - whole school approach to encourage good attendance.



School undertakes careful monitoring of all pupils' attendance and intervenes early.

Listen, Understand, & Facilitate Support

School escalation process. Casework for individual pupils / families. Thorough assessment and planning, involve school colleagues or external services as identified necessary (with consent where required). Review. EWS referral checklist where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.



School request EWS involvement – share checklist. (Consent not required.)

EWS response – usually either attendance panel meeting or advice to the school re alternative course of action.

If panel held and contract in place, school monitor. If unauthorised absence continues, school request further EWS action. New in August 2024 – LA Attendance contract meetings / Notice to Improve letters, If agreed, EWS issue Final Warning, or Interview under caution paperwork (EWS decision based on all available information), and EWS monitor attendance with school.

EWS consider Education Supervision Order throughout process.



Penalty Notice or court action (decision made by EWS based on all available information.)

Penalty Notice Fines for School Absence

Fines are issued in line with the National Framework for Penalty Notices.

This poster explains when a fine can be issued for unauthorised absence that occurs from August 2025 onwards. Fines issued for absence that happened from August 2024 onwards count towards the escalation process.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in **each** parent receiving 3 **separate** fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for:

- term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days
- or 4 days where the absence immediately precedes/includes a 5th day which is a school closure day (e.g. school holiday / INSET / enforced closure) or any form of absence
- or for fewer days where this has happened before

10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. (No option to pay at £80 level)

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will usually proceed to the Magistrates' court. Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate and may impact on job applications and travel abroad.

Court prosecutions: Penalty Notices will not automatically be issued. Parents are advised that where the LA considers that a Penalty Notice is not appropriate due to the level of concern about a child's absence, prosecution action may be taken.

By law, all Penalty Notice payments go to the local authority and not to schools.

10 tips for parents to help ensure their child attends school regularly and on time:

- 1. Help your child to get their book bag ready the night before school.
- 2. Make sure their uniform is ready for the following day.
- Make sure your child goes to bed at a reasonable time.
- 4. Set the alarm clock early enough to allow plenty of time to get ready.
- 5. Make sure your child has some breakfast unless they are attending breakfast club.
- 6. Leave for school with plenty of time to spare so your child is not late, remember gates shut at 8:40am.
- Check to make sure they have everything they need book bag, water bottle etc.

 8. If your child is having any problems with their work,
- speak to their class teacher at the end of the day.
- 9. Talk to your child about what they do at school each
- 10.If your child is unhappy at school, contact the school straight away.

Any concerns or questions, please contact us on 0116 251 2686





ATTENDANCE INFORMATION 2025 - 26

Together we can... improve attendance

> Saxby Street Leicester LE2 ONE Tel: 0116 251 2686

Email: office@sparkenhoe.Leicester.sch.uk

Attendance

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- Are known to be safe and well.

Research shows a direct link between high attendance and doing well at school.

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The table below shows how having days off impacts on attendance:

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80%	38	8 (approx.)	160
75%	47 ½	9 1/2 (approx.)	200
70%	57	11 ½ (approx.)	230

Being on time

Arriving at school on time is as important as attendance. The school gates open at 08:30am and close at 08:40am. Children should be in school by this time as registers are taken at 08:40am.

Children who are late miss out on the important initial learning activities of the day. Children who are regularly late, fall behind in their learning. Their day is disrupted, as is the learning of the rest of the class, whose attention is disrupted by the arrival of latecomers.

If you are 10 minutes late every day, your child will lose almost 7 days of learning a year!

Parent/Carer responsibilities

Contact us on 0116 2512686 (option 1) on the first day of an absence to leave a message about an absence, or message us on our WEDUC app. Make an appointment to see Mrs Cooper if you have any questions about attendance or if you want to discuss a planned absence from school (eg. holiday).

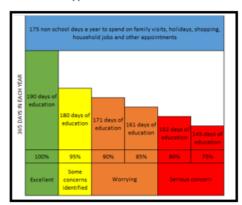
School's responsibilities

- We will contact parents on the first day of an absence if we have not been contacted by you first.
- We will write to you if we have any concerns over attendance, punctuality or not knowing where your child is.
- · We ask for evidence of absences, especially where attendance is low.

If you have any issues that may be impacting on your child's attendance, we will do our best to support you and find a solution to the problem. The Educational Welfare Officer will be involved with persistent absentees.

The role of the Attendance Officer and Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

The Education Welfare Officer (EWO) is a member of the Local Education Authority Team who have responsibility for promoting, encouraging and enforcing regular school attendance. The EWO is in regular contact with our Attendance Officer to look at attendance, patterns of absence and lateness.



Saxby Street Leicester LE2 ONE

Email: office@sparkenhoe.Leicester.sch.uk

Any concerns, please contact us on 0116 251 2686



ABSENCES

2025-26

Together we can... improve attendance

To request an absence in term time, you will need to see Mrs Cooper. Please call 0116 251 2686 to make an appointment BEFORE you book any tickets.

Attendance

School is an important part of the lives of children and young people. It is where they begin to develop new skills, make friendships and it helps prepare them for their future. When a child misses school, they can miss out on these vital opportunities and their learning and friendships may

suffer

Parents and carers have the legal responsibility to ensure that a child attends school regularly.

Illness

- If your child is ill, you must ring the school office first thing in the morning and leave a message – 0116 251 2686 (option1) or message us on our WEDUC app.
- Please clearly state the name of your child, their class and exactly what is wrong with them.
- If you do not contact us, we will send a message by our WEDUC app, or text
 or email you to ask where your child is.
- If we still have no information from you, we will ring or make a home visit.
- If your child is ill for several days, we may ask for medical evidence (copy of prescription or appointment card).
- If your child vomits, or has diarrhoea they must stay away from school for 48 hours after the last time they were ill.
- If your child has a lot of time off for minor illnesses without providing acceptable medical evidence, you may be fined for the absences.

Appointments

If your child has an appointment during school time, we need to know before your child takes the time off school. We will need to see evidence of the appointment.

Children must not take time off school for non medical appointments, unless they have been discussed with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.





Government legislation means that schools are not allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school during term time for a holiday. Requests for leave can only be granted by schools if there are 'exceptional circumstances' and holidays are not considered exceptional.

Requests for leave must be made to the school BEFORE you book any tickets.

Evidence will be required to support requests for leave.

If an absence is taken without authorisation, the following will apply:

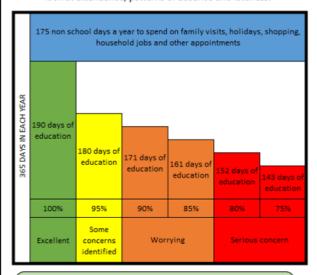
Consecutive days of term time leave Penalty Notice fines will be issued for:

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- Term Time Leave of fewer days where this has happened before.
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- 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period. This includes absences where you have not informed the school why your child is away.
- For an absence longer than 20 days, your child could be removed from the school roll resulting in you having to reapply for a school place.
- Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.
 The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. (No option to pay at £80 level)
- The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular
 attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will usually proceed to
 the Magistrates' court. Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per
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 to the level of concern about a child's absence, prosecution action may be taken.

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Any concerns, please contact us on 0116 251 2686



Medical Information 2025 - 26

Together we can improve attendance

Saxby Street Leicester LE2 ONE Tel: 0116 251 2686

Email: office@sparkenhoe.Leicester.sch.uk

<u>Attendance</u>

School is an important part of the lives of children and young people. It is where they begin to develop new skills, make friendships and it helps prepare them for their future. When a child misses school, they can miss out on these vital opportunities and their learning and friendships may suffer.

Parents and carers have the legal responsibility to ensure that a child attends school regularly.

Illness

If your child is ill, you must ring the school office first thing in the morning and leave a message – **0116 251 2686 (option1)**. Please clearly state the name of your child, their class and exactly what is wrong with them. If your child is ill for several days, we may ask for medical evidence (copy of prescription or appointment card).

If your child vomits or has diarrhoea, they must stay away from school for 48 hours after the last time they vomited / had diarrhoea.

If your child has a lot of time off for minor illnesses without providing acceptable medical evidence, you may be fined for the absences.

Children need to be in school as much as possible. They should only stay at home if they are really unwell. The NHS and the Chief Medical Officer says that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a cough, runny nose or sore throat. When children are ill we will be regularly asking how soon they will return and offering support to get them back to school as soon as possible.

We will ask you to explain exactly what illness your child has. It is not enough to just tell us they are ill, or that they have a cough. We need more information to help us decide if we will authorise the absence. If we are not sure why your child is not in school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Medicine in School

If your child has medical needs that requires them to have medicine given to them in school time, whether that be a long term need or a short term need, please come and talk to us.

- If your child has antibiotics that they need to take 4 times a day and they are well enough to come to school, we can give a dose during the school day.
- If your child needs other, prescribed medication during the school day, we can arrange to give it to them.
- If your child needs pain medication during the school day, this can be arranged after a discussion with Mrs Cooper.
- If your child has asthma, we need their inhaler in school at all times.
- If they have an adrenaline pen for allergies, we need one in school at all times.

To ask for medicine to be given to your child in school, please talk to the office staff who can make an appointment with Mrs Cooper, or help you to complete the necessary forms.

Please call 0116 251 2686

The extended services staff are:

- •Mrs H Pattani
- Miss A Samaria

Miss H Gangat

For further details or to register your child, please contact Tel 0116 2512686 email:

office@sparkenhoe.leicester.sch.uk

Any questions, please contact us on 0116 251 2686





EXTENDED CARE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE 2025 - 26

Together we can...

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Email: office@sparkenhoe.Leicester.sch.uk

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Children who are late, miss out on the important initial learning activities of the day. Children who are regularly late, fall behind in their learning. Their day is disrupted, as is the learning of the rest of the class, whose attention is disrupted by the arrival of late comers.

If you are struggling to get your child to school on time, or collecting them from school on time because of your work hours, you have the option of enrolling them to our Before School Care or After School Care.

Before and After School Care

Our Extended day scheme, for children of working parents or those in training, enables some children to be cared for on school premises outside of normal school hours.

Before School Care is available from 7.30 am until classes start at 8.30 am. Children get a healthy breakfast which ensures they are ready for the school day.

Kidszone After School Care, is available from 3.10 pm until 5.15 pm. Children have a snack (milk or juice, biscuits and fruit) and ake part in games, free choice activities and sports. They can also use the time to read and complete homework.

Registration No. 146857- re-awarded 8th February 2024



The charges for these facilities are:

Before School Care 7:30 - 8:30
•£10.00 for a full week (every day)
•£2.00 a day

<u>Kidszone After School Care</u> •£25.00 for a full week or £5.00 a day

We also run a free Breakfast Club, which is available to ALL children. Children can arrive between <u>8.00 am</u> until 8.20 am.

Before School Care and <u>Kidszone</u> After School Care are popular with working parents and those in training.

Any after school, casual sessions MUST be booked by 10.00am, so that we can ensure that we have the correct staff ratios.

All children who attend Before School Care or <u>Kidszone</u> After School Care, must be registered.

There is also a late charge if children are collected after 5.15 pm - this is £5.00 for every 15 minutes.