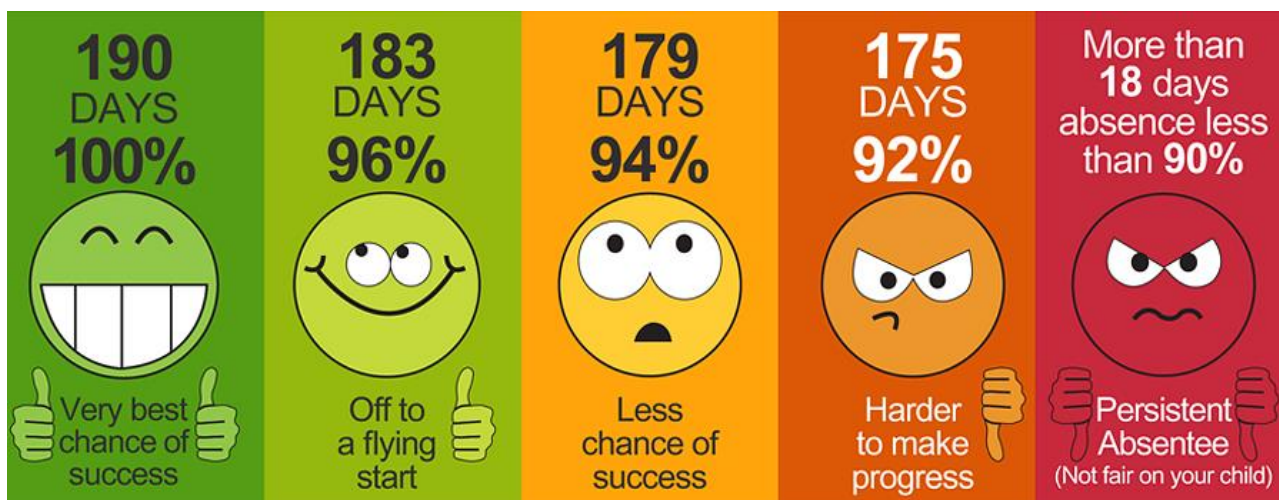




All parents or carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child regularly attends school. Regular attendance gives the greatest opportunity to learn new things and develop their skills and friendships and is an important step towards reaching each child's full potential.

NSPCC studies have shown the statistical links between attendance and achievement are very strong. They recognise that poor school attendance may be a sign of abuse, neglect, special needs, or vulnerability (NSPCC). Attendance is a safeguarding issue- it could be an early indicator or a symptom of a longer term problem.



School attendance for all Oldham pupils has never been as important and must remain a priority so that children are given their chance to achieve their potential, they are seen and are safe.

It is especially important for our most vulnerable children so they can be linked to universal services. It's seriously detrimental to children to miss school because:

- A child who misses school twice per month will lose out on 18 days' education across the school year – that's nearly four weeks.
- Children who miss a substantial amount of school fall behind their peers and can struggle to catch up, this leads to big gaps in learning and confidence.
- It can be hard for a child who misses lots of school to form relationships with their classmates.
- Missing school just 10 days a year can significantly impact on outcomes - pupils who miss between 10 and 20% of school (that's 19 to 38 days per year) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.
- Poor attendance also reflects badly on the child's school. Ofsted expect all schools to have good attendance rates, and they are marked down in inspections if their absence figures are too high.