



Attendance at a Glance



Five Islands Academy, Parents & Carers, and the Council of the Isles of Scilly
Climbing the Attendance Mountain together

Why Attendance Matters

- **Learning:** Regular attendance = stronger progress in SATs and GCSEs (fewer than half of children with under 90% attendance achieve national expected standards).
- **Friendships & belonging:** Being in school builds confidence and social skills.
- **Future opportunities:** Poor attendance can affect long-term earnings and life chances.
- **Wellbeing:** Routine supports mental health and reduces anxiety.

The Attendance Mountain

Think of attendance as a mountain we climb together, in partnership with the Council of the Isles of Scilly:

- **Climbing towards the summit (95%+):** Children are thriving, learning well, and building friendships.
- **Middle slopes (90–95%):** Some gaps and broken weeks appear - we'll check in and offer support.
- **Stuck at base camp 90% (persistently absent):** Significant learning and wellbeing risks - we'll work closely with families to put a plan in place.

(See the Attendance Mountain diagram for a clear visual guide.)



Five Islands Academy Approach to Attendance

We want families to know that we notice and care if your child is absent, and that support always comes first.

- **Tier 1:** A letter with a friendly check-in if we notice dips or broken weeks.
- **Tier 2:** A Pupil Support Plan with agreed actions, listening to your child's voice.
- **Extra help:** Wellbeing support, quiet spaces, phased returns, or referrals to services.
- **Formal steps:** Only if attendance does not improve after support has been offered.

Term-Time Holidays

- By law, Headteachers cannot authorise holidays in term time unless circumstances are exceptional.
- Family holidays are not considered unavoidable.
- Unauthorised absence may lead to a Penalty Notice (£80 rising to £160).

FAQs

What if my child is ill? Please let us know each day the reason (e.g. flu, stomach bug) rather than just "unwell."

What if we have medical appointments? We may ask for confirmation if appointments mean missing lessons, so we can keep accurate records.

What if my child feels anxious about school? We can arrange check-ins with a trusted adult, quiet spaces, or phased returns. Talking to us early helps us put the right support in place.

What if my child is late to school? Tutors or teachers will get in touch if your child is often a few minutes late. If they arrive after 9.00am, this is counted as an absence: please call in to let us know why.

What counts as exceptional circumstances? Rare, significant, unavoidable events (such as a family funeral). Family holidays do not count.

What happens if attendance keeps slipping? We'll always start with support - friendly check-ins, a Pupil Support Plan, and wellbeing help. Formal steps only come if attendance continues to decline after these supports are offered.

Key Message

We want our school to be a place where children feel safe, seen and supported, and where parents feel comfortable to talk to us when there are barriers to attendance.

Check your child's attendance on the Arbor app.

Contact our attendance team via enquiries@fiveislands.org.



**Truro and Penwith
Academy Trust**



**Council of the
ISLES OF SCILLY**