RIVERS Campus

EVERY DAY MATTERS

Parent Attendance Forum

“If education is the key, then school is the lock”

— Suli Breaks

What we will explore today

01 Why every day counts

The learning, confidence, friendships and opportunities gained by attending regularly.

02 Illness and wellbeing

Making informed decisions about illness and recognising when pupils need additional support.

03 Practical next steps

Small habits, supportive conversations and a shared action plan between home and school.

LISTEN

DISCUSS

AGREE ACTIONS

Attendance is about more than a percentage

Every school day creates opportunities that cannot always be replicated at home.

LEARNING

New knowledge, explanation and feedback that build lesson by lesson.

BELONGING

Friendships, trusted adults and being part of the school community.

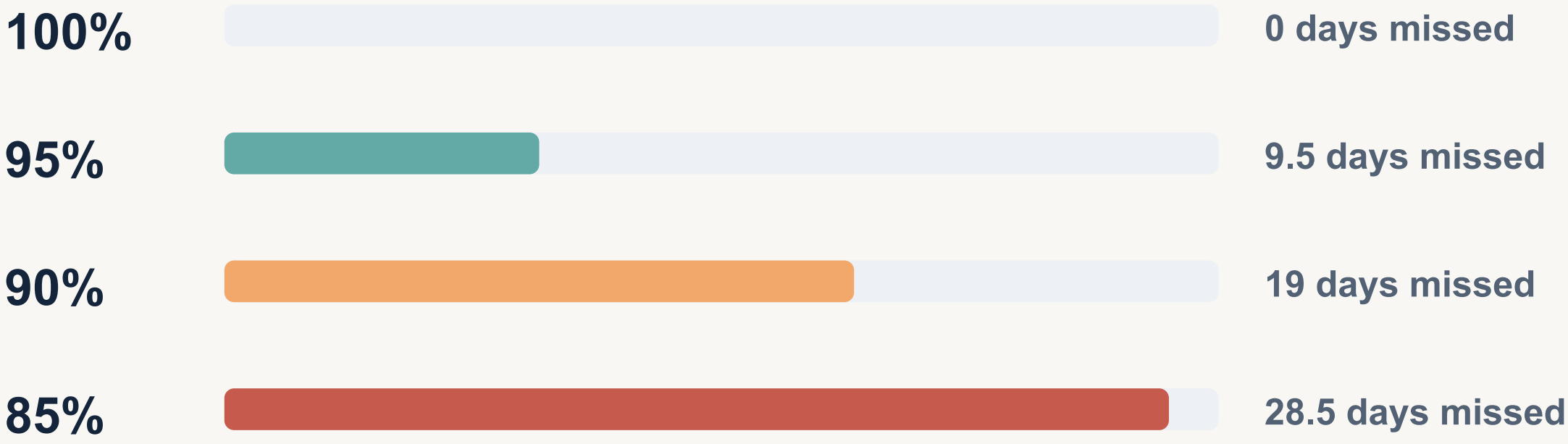
FUTURE CHOICES

Confidence, qualifications, routines and preparation for life beyond school.

Our message: attendance is a shared goal — and support is available when getting to school is difficult.

What does attendance mean in real days?

Illustrative examples based on a 190-day school year



Even a few days add up. Each improvement matters.

Video 1 | Why attending every day matters

EVERY DAY COUNTS

WATCH • REFLECT • DISCUSS

As you watch, think about:

- What might a pupil miss beyond the lesson?
- What helps your child feel connected to school?
- What is one small change that could help?

▶ Play the video

What can make attendance difficult?

Health

Physical illness or ongoing medical needs

Emotional wellbeing

Anxiety, stress or feeling overwhelmed

School experiences

Friendships, bullying, lesson worries

Practical barriers

Sleep, transport, caring responsibilities

“What is making school difficult — how can we help?”

Video 2 | Illness absence and staying healthy

UNWELL… OR WELL ENOUGH?

A practical decision for every family

Discuss after watching

- What signs mean a child should stay home?
- When is school still appropriate?
- How can we communicate health concerns early?

▶ Play the video

Is my child too ill for school?

USUALLY OK TO ATTEND

Mild cough, runny nose or sore throat when your child is otherwise well and has no high temperature.

STAY AT HOME

High temperature until resolved; vomiting or diarrhoea until at least 24 hours.

For other conditions, check NHS advice and seek medical guidance as appropriate. Notify school promptly of every absence.

When the barrier is worry, not illness

Anxiety and school avoidance need understanding, early conversations and a plan.

LISTEN

Ask what feels difficult, when it happens and what would help your child feel safe.

CONNECT

Speak to the pastoral team or SENCO; share concerns about friendships, bullying or sensory needs.

PLAN

Agree achievable steps, adjustments, a trusted adult and review dates.

We will work with families rather than expect them to solve complex barriers alone.

Video 3 | How parents can help

SMALL HABITS. BIG IMPACT.

Create consistency, not perfection.

Think together

- What already works in your household?
- Which mornings are most challenging?
- What support would make the biggest difference?

▶ Play the video

Five practical habits at home

01	**Prepare the night before**	Uniform, bag, homework and travel plan.
02	**Protect the sleep routine**	Regular bedtimes and sensible screen limits.
03	**Make mornings predictable**	Allow time for breakfast and travel.
04	**Talk about school positively**	Ask about friendships, lessons and worries.
05	**Communicate early**	Report absence and ask for support before patterns grow.

What parents can expect from school

A WELCOMING START

Consistent check-ins, trusted relationships and a focus on belonging.

EARLY COMMUNICATION

Clear attendance information, supportive contact and opportunities to share barriers.

TAILORED SUPPORT

Pastoral or SEND involvement where needed, agreed adjustments and progress reviews.

Our shared commitment: understand the challenge • agree support • review progress

Parent forum | Your voice matters

1. What is the biggest attendance challenge for families?

2. What would help your child feel more confident about school?

3. How could school communication or support improve?

DISCUSS IN PAIRS OR SMALL GROUPS

Our shared pledge: one step this week

AT HOME

Choose one routine or conversation that supports a positive school morning.

AT SCHOOL

Listen, respond and agree a clear next step when support is needed.

Let’s celebrate progress — including small improvements.

Who will do what? By when? How will we check back?

Attendance – Powerful Stats & Facts

190 days of Education	180 days of Education	171 days of Education	161 days of Education	152days of Education	143 days of Education
100%	95% RAWL target-97%	90%	85%	80%	75%
0 days absent	9.5 days absent	4 weeks absent (1 day every 2 weeks)	5.5 weeks absent	7.5 weeks absent (1 day/ week0 *equivalent to 2 years of education	9.5 weeks absent
Good ;students have best possible chances An average of at least 1 GCSE grade in every subject if below 95%		**Worrying:** Students progress and outcomes will suffer – classed as **Persistent absence (PA)**		**Serious concern** : students' progress and outcomes will be seriously reduced	
CHANCES OF ATTAINING 5 good GCSE grades (Grade 4+):					
94.9%	73.5%	56.8% Almost halved	41%	28.9%	17.7%
2 days = 1%					

Thank you | Useful resources

A strong attendance culture starts with relationships, routines and support.

Why attending every day matters in secondary school ↗

Illness absence and staying healthy ↗

Tips for how parents can support attendance ↗

NHS: Is my child too ill for school? ↗

↗

For individual concerns, please contact the school attendance team by email attendance@rivers-aspirations.org