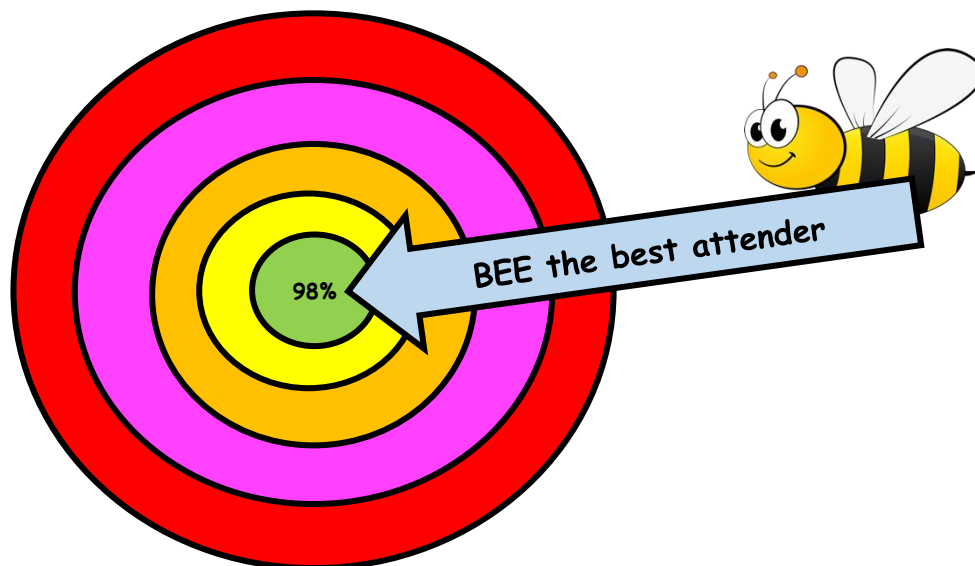




Attendance Matters

Our Attendance Target at Follifoot and Spofforth C of E Primary Schools



At Follifoot and Spofforth CE Primary Schools we know that good attendance is the key to successful learning and we believe our pupils can be amongst the best in the country.

Although we aim for 100% attendance, each year we set a target for attendance and this is used to compare us to other schools nationally. Our 'dream' target is 98% attendance, however, attendance in school is currently only 96% which means we have a way to go.

Attending school every day will help give your child the best possible start in life. We are continually striving to do the best for your child and to improve the progress and attainment of all our pupils. We firmly believe that this can be achieved by regular school attendance.

Children who come to school regularly are more likely to:

- Achieve good standards of work
- Get on well with other children and have good friendships
- Continue to do well when they transfer to secondary school
- Develop positive attitudes towards work, which will help them in their lives

You can help us to help your child by encouraging regular school attendance.

Regular attendance helps children to develop their confidence and to make and keep lasting friendships.





Why 98% attendance?

- ♣ 98% attendance equals 5 days off a year.
- ♣ In most fields of employment, 5 days absence is the point at which action is taken by the employer as any further absence is regarded as poor attendance.
- ♣ As a Federation we want to prepare our children for the future preparing them for excellent work habits. Regular attendance and excellent punctuality are parts of this work.
- ♣ 90% attendance a year means 3.5 whole weeks (17.5 days) of lessons have been missed

Holidays

There are 190 statutory school days in one year. That means there are 175 days (weekends & school holidays) available to use for holidays!



There is no automatic entitlement to time off in school time to go on holiday.

Headteachers cannot authorise any leave in term time unless there are extremely exceptional circumstances.

Any period taken without agreement of the school, or in excess of that agreed, will be classed as unauthorised and may attract a Penalty Notice.

A 2 week holiday in school time means your child has approximately 50 hours of missed work to catch up on!

Reducing Illness Days



If your child is saying they do not feel well and you are unsure about whether they need a day off or not please send them to school. If they are ill, we will ring you. Of course some absences are unavoidable. If your child is genuinely poorly then we understand that they need to stay away from school. We ask you to telephone school on the first day that your child is unable to attend and let us know.

The following advice from the NHS can help with making decisions about school attendance when your child feels unwell

Medical Appointments



If your child has to have a medical or dental appointment in school time please try to book it after 2PM and then your child can have their registration mark for the afternoon before you pick them up. If it needs to be a morning appointment please try and bring them to school first to get their mark and then return then to school afterwards. We understand that this is not always possible and that sometimes you have little choice when making appointments.

Every half-day absence from school has to be classified by the school as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHORISED. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required.

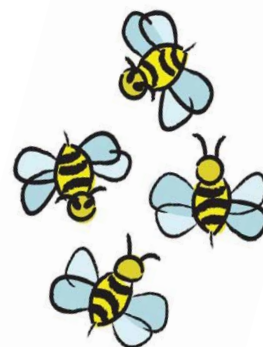
Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness (where a child is too ill to attend school) medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable cause.

The Department for Education guidance states "if the authenticity of illness is in doubt, schools can request parents to provide medical evidence to support illness. Schools can record the absence as unauthorised if not satisfied of the authenticity of the illness but should advise parents of their intentions. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, appointment cards etc. rather than a doctors note."

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings.

The impact of poor attendance

- ♣ Department for Education research shows that around 17 days missed a year risks a whole GCSE grade DROP in achievement. Our Year 6 learners are not too far away from GCSEs.
- ♣ The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.
- ♣ Regular school attendance helps a child to:
 - Learn
 - Progress
 - Establish good habits
 - Be supervised and safe
 - Prepare for the future
- ♣ Irregular school attendance for non-authorized reasons:
 - Seriously disrupts continuity of learning
 - Undermines educational progress
 - Leads to underachievement and low attainment
 - Creates a future higher risk of unemployment
 - Creates a greater risk of being drawn into criminal or anti-social activity
 - Parents may be fined if their child's school attendance is unsatisfactory and on occasion a parent can be given a prison sentence where non-attendance is condoned.



What are our procedures?

- Pupil attendance is very closely monitored. The Headteacher, Pastoral Worker and Office Teams will check pupil attendance percentages weekly to see if action is required.
- First Response calls will be made daily if a child does not attend school, this is so that we know where your child is and that they are safe.
- Classes are encouraged to compete for the best attendance and the attendance is celebrated in assemblies
- Any child that falls into the amber group will be closely monitored and you will be contacted to let you know that attendance is becoming a concern.
- If attendance drops to 90% and below pupils are identified as 'Persistent Absentees'. A formal letter will be issued to parents/carers about their child's attendance record.
- A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year for whatever reason.

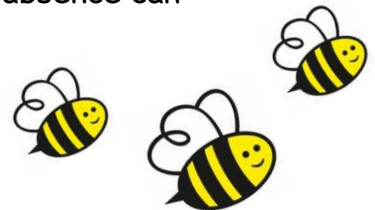
- Taking leave in term time will affect your child's schooling as much as any other absence and we ask parents to help us by not taking children away on holiday in school time.

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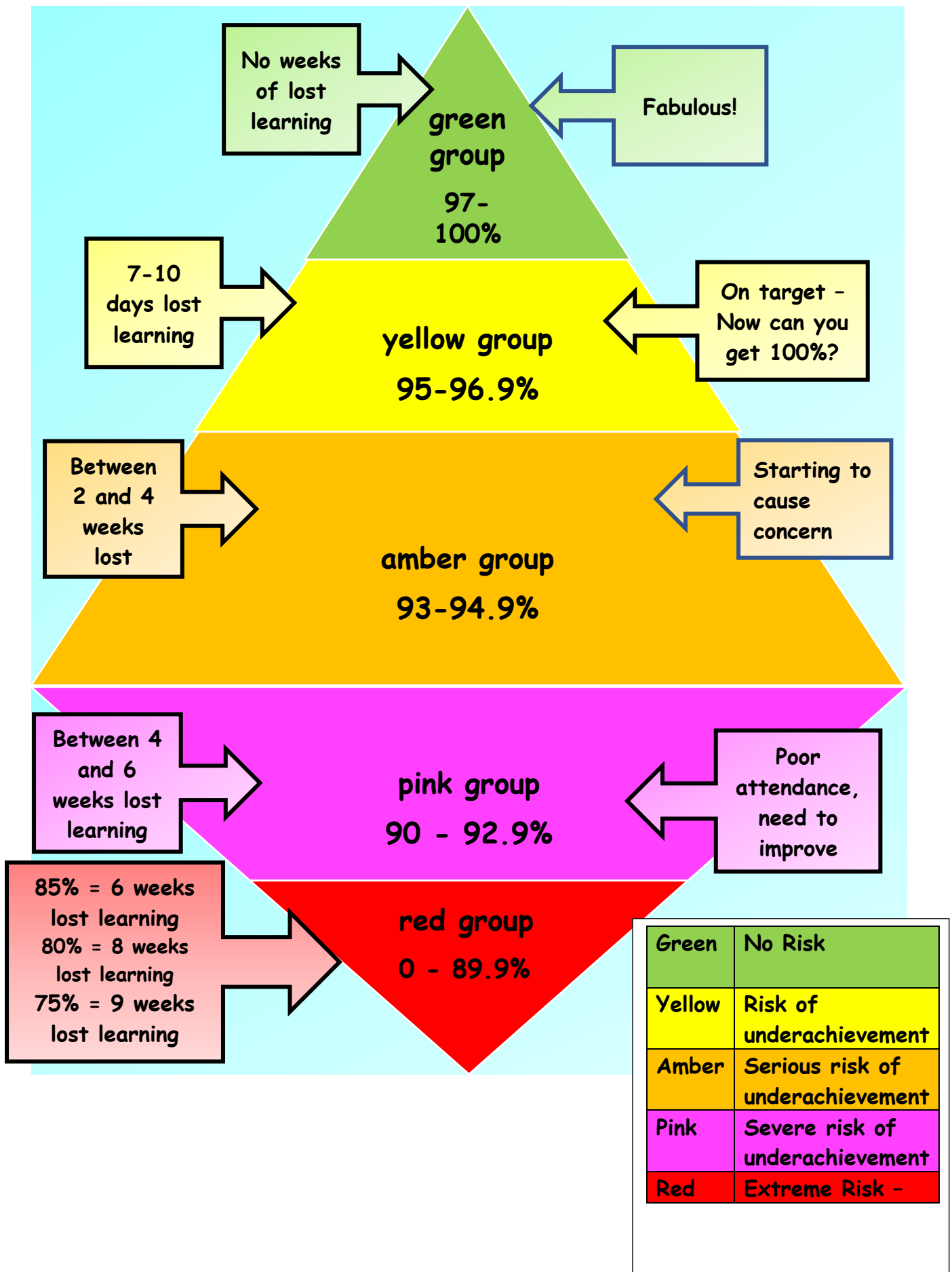


How can you help?

- Aim for 10 hours sleep a night for your child. This will make the following day at school easier for them to cope with.
- Make sure your child eats breakfast, it helps them stay alert at school.
- Help your child to get their school bag ready the night before.
- Develop a night time routine that involves checking their homework, reading & bed. Try to limit time before bed on tablets, phones and electronic games.
- Try & make sure that any medical/dental appointments are made for after school.
- Only take holidays or trips to visit family in school holidays.
- If your child is ill, let the school on the first day of absence as soon as possible.
- Contact us if there are any problems that might affect attendance so that we can try and find a solution to support you and your child.



Attendance Diamond



Green	No Risk
Yellow	Risk of underachievement
Amber	Serious risk of underachievement
Pink	Severe risk of underachievement
Red	Extreme Risk -

