

How does it feel for your child when they are late for school?



We realise there will be the odd time children will be late for a variety of reasons, however there are some families that arrive after register closes too frequently. Have you ever considered how this affects your child?

"I walk in alone-the playground is empty- everyone is already inside. I feel panic."

"I have to go to the office and explain why I am late and give my dinner order. I feel stressed"

"When I get to the classroom the children all stare at me. I feel self-conscious."

"I explain again why I am late. I feel shame."

"Lessons have started and I don't know what is going on. I feel frustration."

"The teaching assistant helps me catch up but I never quite do. I feel anxious."

"The teacher is busy. She tells me to hang up my coat, sit down and get my equipment out. I feel confused."

All these negative emotions impact on your child's self-worth and learning.

Now consider:

Effects of being on time

- Gets the day off to a good start with everyone in a positive frame of mind.
- Helps your child make the most of their learning and sets positive patterns for the future.
- Helps children develop a sense of responsibility both for themselves and for others.
- Helps your child make and keep friends.
- Improves self-confidence. Improves attainment.

Some things that help

- Help your child get everything ready the night before (e.g. PE kit, school uniform) and leave their bag by the door.
- Allowing plenty of time to get to school.

- Make arrangements with neighbours, family or friends if you have problems getting your child to school.
- Make sure your child has breakfast or arrives at school in time for breakfast club.
- Help your child organise homework.
- Establish a good bedtime routine.
- Make sure your child gets enough rest and is not distracted by too much time on the computer or watching TV.
- An alarm clock!
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What should you do if you have a problem getting your child to school on time?

- Talk to your child first.
- Talk to your child's teacher who will direct you to the appropriate person for support.

Long Term effect of habitual lateness on your child

There is a clear link between attendance and attainment; the more time a pupil spends in school the more likely they are to improve their opportunity to fulfil their full potential.

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

Our Procedures if a Child is Late

The school gates open at 8:30am and we expect all children to be in school by 8:50am when the gates close. If your child arrives at school after 8:50am they will need to come into school via the office and will need to be signed in, giving a reason for being late. We monitor punctuality and if children are regularly arriving at school late a meeting will be arranged with parents to see how we can support them in getting their child to school on time.

BUT REMEMBER – "IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE LATE THAN NOT TO ARRIVE AT ALL"

