| **When is it ok for my child not to be in school?**Your child can be off school if: * They are ill.
* They are attending a doctor or hospital appointment.
* They are going to a meeting about a Children’s Hearing or court, or if they are going to a Children’s Hearing, care review or court.
* If they are involved in an activity and the school agrees in advance.
* Someone close to your child has died.
* There is a crisis or serious difficulty at home or in your family.
* They are going to a religious ceremony or a wedding of someone very close to them.
* You are a Gypsy/Traveler family and while you go travelling you keep in touch with your child’s teacher.
* Your family is returning to a country of origin for cultural reasons or to care for a relative.

As long as you have informed the school of the reason why your child is off, and the school is satisfied that this is a valid reason, these would be called authorised absences. | SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND ADVICE**ParentLine Scotland** At some time all parents find that parenting can be difficult or stressful. ParentLine Scotland is the free, confidential, telephone helpline for anyone caring for a child in Scotland. You can call about any problem, however big or small. Phone: 0808 800 2222 On line at: <http://www.children1st.org.uk/parentline>**Parentzone** Parentzone provides information for parents and carers about how you can support your child’s education. On line at: <http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk> **ChildLine** Children and young people can get confidential help about any question, concern or worry. Phone: 08001111 On line at: <http://www.childline.org.uk>**St Davids Primary**0131 271 4675st-davids.ps@midlothian.gov.ukActing Head Teacher Mrs Gill McPherson |  | St David's Primary SchoolParent Power!Supporting School Attendance |
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| Why is school attendance important?* Learn new things.
* Have fun
* Make new friends.
* Gain new experiences.
* Develop understanding of religion and beliefs.
* Experience success.
* Gain qualifications.

**Did you know?**There are 175 days available for holidays outside term time!* Develop new skills
* Build confidence.

School gives your child the best possible start in life! | **Every School Day Counts**What can parents do to help support attendance?* Have a good morning and evening routine so your child is ready for the school day.
* Make sure your child arrives at school on time.
* Book dental and doctor appointments out with school time.
* Take family holidays during school holidays.
 | Attendance is so important to ensure you child is happy and achieving in school.Something to think about;Children who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends.What does a 90% attendance mean?90% attendance might sounds good but did you know that means 19 days off school every year, that’s almost a whole month!If you had 90% attendance every year from P1 to leaving school at S6 you would have missed 247 days of school! That’s over 1 year of missed education!Think about how big an impact an 80% attendance would have on learning. |
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