

# ISS News – Attendance Edition

Issue 1

Autumn 2025

Inclusion Support Service - School Attendance Support Team



## Hampshire – Academic Year 2024/25 – View Your Education Data

Number of pupils		Overall attendance %		Overall absence %		Unauthorised absence %	
190,192		93.0%		7.0%		1.7%	
Persistently absent				Severely absent			
Number of persistently absent pupils		Percentage of persistently absent pupils		Number of severely absent pupils		Percentage of severely absent pupils	
35,794		18.8%		4,467		2.3%	

Figures show that both Primary, Secondary and Special School absences rates are below National figures for 2024/2025. Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to improve school attendance across Hampshire.

## A Success Story: Rebuilding Trust to Support a Child's Return to Learning

A child with persistent absence was referred to the School Attendance Support Team after missing over a quarter of the academic year. The father had disengaged from school, declined all support, and was hostile in communication. Previous attempts to support had not been engaged with. Working with the Attendance Officer, the school adopted a tailored approach, arranging a phone-based meeting to accommodate the father's needs. This opened the door to constructive dialogue. The father agreed to pastoral and learning support for the child, signed an Attendance Contract, and gave permission for a medical plan to be developed. Communication between home and school was restored, and Children's Services are now involved. The child is receiving the support they need, and adults around them are working together to improve their school experience.



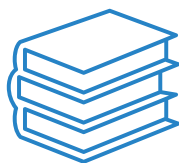
We would love to hear about your success stories! Please send them through to [ISS.queries@hants.gov.uk](mailto:ISS.queries@hants.gov.uk).

Hampshire County Council shares tips to help families prepare for school, covering health, wellbeing, attendance, free school meals, and childcare. Explore local support services and resources.

[Read the full guide here](#)

Every day in school counts. The DfE explains how attendance impacts attainment and future earnings, and outlines initiatives like free breakfast clubs and mentoring to boost attendance.

[Read the full article here.](#)



## Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) – Supporting School Attendance



Hampshire  
County  
Council

DfE launches a major plan to improve behaviour and attendance. RISE hubs will support 5,000 schools, backed by £1.4bn for free breakfast clubs, mental health services, and proven strategies to cut disruption.

[Read the full article here.](#)

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) podcast episode “*Supporting School Attendance: Reflection and Planning Tool*” explores evidence-based strategies to improve pupil attendance. Although shared over a year ago, it remains highly relevant.

Carter highlights the importance of using data and research to understand attendance challenges:

**Sense of Belonging** – A critical factor across all contexts, linked to pupils feeling respected and safe, both physically and emotionally. This is particularly significant for female pupils.

**Second Transition (Year 7 to Year 8)** – A period where attendance often dips.

**Intersectionality** – For example, girls eligible for Pupil Premium and identified as SEN had an average attendance of just 77%.

Owen also notes that rewards and sanctions have limited impact compared to fostering strong relationships and helping pupils understand the value of attendance.

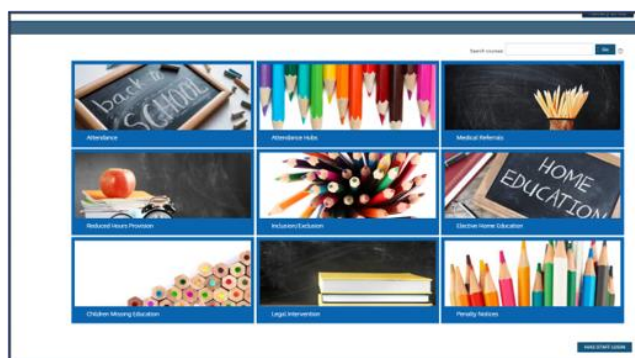
Explore the Education Endowment Foundation:

[Understanding Attendance - Report 1](#)

[Understanding Attendance - Report 2](#)

[Listen to the podcast](#)

[Access the tools and resources](#)



### Moodle Page Launch!

This will act as an information hub containing all resources you need from ISS.

Please save the following link.

[Moodle Page](#)

Please note that the Inclusion Support Service (ISS) have a new electronic platform (Mendix) for schools to refer children to and request advice from ISS. [Inclusion Support Service School Forms \(Mendix\)](#)

