Peacehaven Community School

Aspire • Believe • Contribute • Achieve

Attendance Matters

Edition 2 - November 2025

Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers

One of the most powerful ways our young people can become the best version of themselves is simply by being here. Attendance is not just about turning up to lessons - it's about being part of something bigger every single day. When students are here, they learn more, grow more, and connect more deeply with their peers and teachers. They discover their strengths, take part in opportunities, and build the confidence that only comes from shared experiences.

Covid did have an impact - we told you to stay away from school and that you would learn ok at home - and we are suffering the consequences - there has been a change in attitude towards attendance at school. Our data shows it. If you are in school 95% or more of the time - you will get better outcomes. That's not the whole story - it's not just lessons and academic content - it is connections, support from peers, learning how to work in a community.

We also know that children cannot do this alone. Parents and carers play a vital role in making attendance a priority, in helping students get into school every day ready to learn. When school and families work together, the message is clear - every day matters, and every child matters.

At PCS, we want every student to feel they belong, and belonging starts with being present.

Rachel Henocq
Headteacher

Times of the Day

Lesson	Time
Gate Opens At 8:20 From 08:35 students will be 'late'	
PDI	08:40 - 09:00
Lesson 1	09:00 - 10:00
Lesson 2	10:00 - 11:00
Break	11:00 - 11:25 (+5 Transition)
Lesson 3	11:30 - 12:30
Lesson 4	12:30 - 13:30
Lunch	13:30 - 14:05 (+5 Transition)
Lesson 5	14:10 - 15:10

Term Dates

Term 2
Monday 3rd November to Friday 19th December
Inset day for students
1st December

Term 3
Tuesday 6th January to Friday 13th February
Inset day for students
5th January

Term 4
Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Term 5
Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May

Term 6
Monday 1st June to Friday 24th July
Inset day for students 10th July
Half day on Friday 24th July

Help

What to do if your child is struggling to attend

Remember you are not on your own. All PCS staff are here to work with you and help. Early support makes all the difference.

Contact your child's Tutor, Pastoral Team, or the Attendance team for help or guidance.

pcs-attendance@swale.at

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Tips & Routines

A smooth start to the day can make all the difference.

Good attendance often begins with good habits at home - and a calm, organised morning routine helps set the tone for a successful day at school.

The Night Before

- Prepare ahead. Pack bags, PE kits, and lunches before bed so mornings feel less rushed.
- Set a bedtime routine. Aim for 8–10 hours of sleep depending on age. Avoid phones or screens 30 minutes before bed to help the brain wind down.
- Plan the morning. Check transport arrangements and uniform - small checks can prevent last-minute stress.

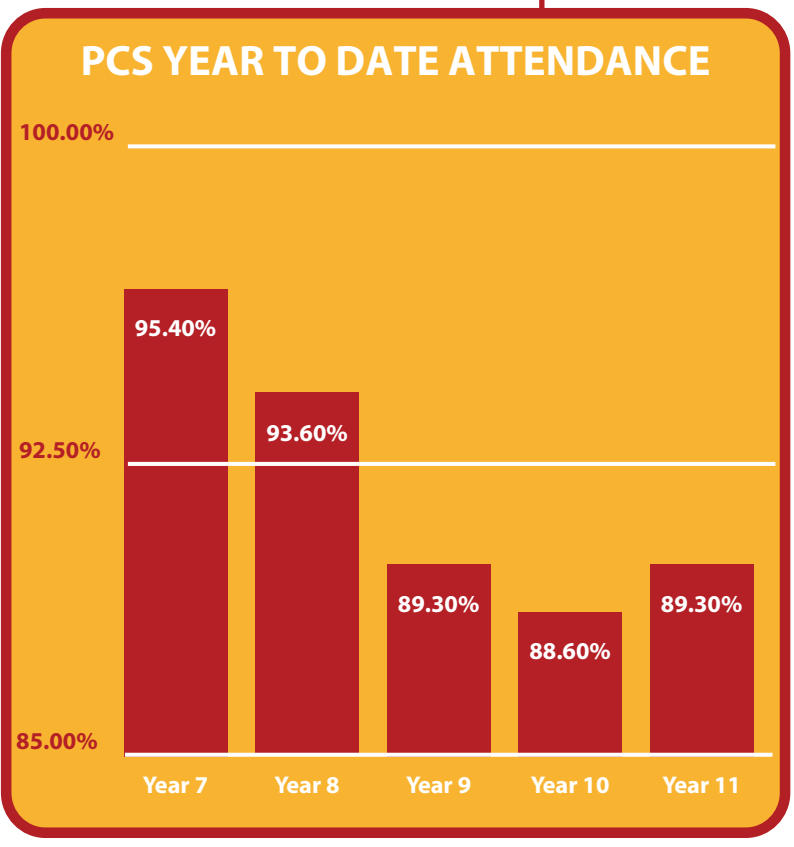
In the Morning

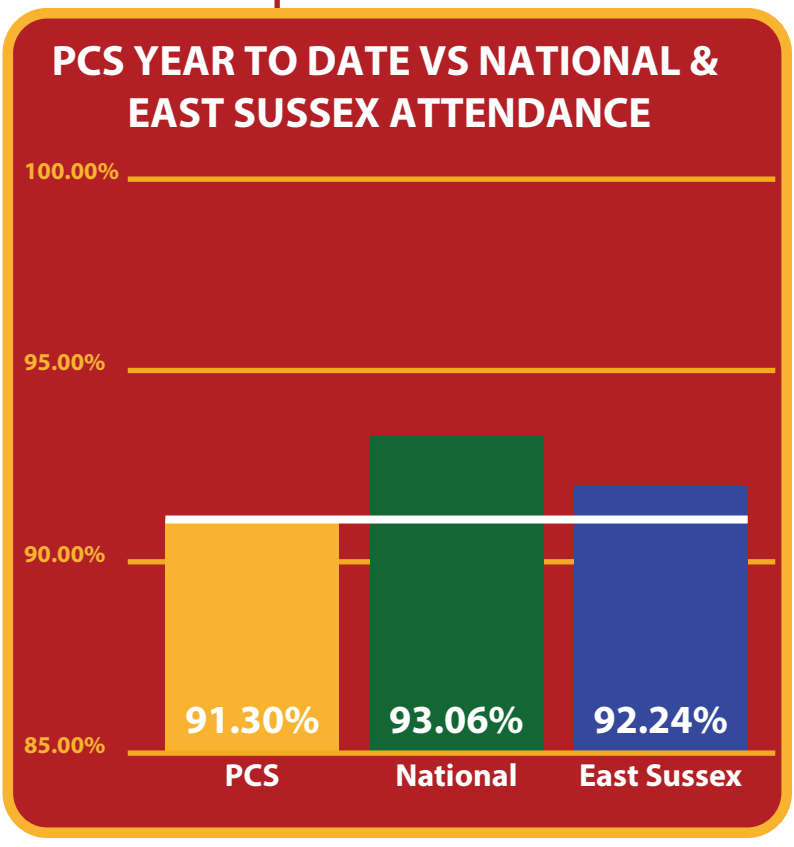
- Wake up at a consistent time. A steady wake-up schedule keeps body clocks balanced and makes mornings smoother.
- Eat breakfast. Even something simple - toast, fruit, or cereal - helps with focus and energy.
- Keep things positive. A calm, encouraging tone helps your child start the day ready to learn.
- Allow extra time. Rushing increases stress and arguments; 10 spare minutes can make all the difference.
- Encourage independence. Let your child take responsibility for parts of their routine - it builds confidence and accountability.
- Model good habits. When children see adults planning ahead and being punctual, they're more likely to do the same.

Small Habits

Small habits add up. A consistent routine doesn't just improve attendance - it helps students feel calmer, more focused, and ready to learn.

Attendance Data





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Spotlight on Year 11

Every Day Counts!

As our Year 11 students head into their final months at school, every single day in class truly matters.

Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of success - even missing the occasional "random" day off can have a bigger impact than it might seem.

Each lesson builds on the last, and gaps in knowledge can make revision and exam preparation more difficult later on. Attendance at mock exams is especially important - they aren't just practice runs, but a vital part of identifying strengths, areas for improvement, and building confidence for the real exams.

Research consistently shows that students with higher attendance achieve better GCSE results. For example, students who attend more than 95% of the time are far more likely to reach or exceed their target grades compared to those who fall below that mark.

We need to work together to make sure every Year 11 student finishes strong - by being present, prepared, and ready to make the most of every learning opportunity.

Ms Leggett - Head of Year 11

10 Tips for Year 11 Success

- **Get ready the night before**
  Lay out your uniform, check your timetable, pack your bag with the necessary exam equipment so you're set for the morning.
- **Set your alarm (and a backup!)**
  Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get up, get ready, and leave without rushing.
- **Eat a good breakfast**
  Fuel your brain for learning and revision; it makes a big difference to focus and energy.
- **Leave home in plenty of time**
  Aim to arrive a few minutes early - it's far better to have time to relax than to arrive stressed.
- **Be on time for every lesson & exam**
  The start of lessons and exams often includes key instructions or hints that can help you get extra marks.
- **Get plenty of sleep**
  Aim for 8 hours so your mind is alert and ready to learn each day.
- **Stay organised**
  Keep track of homework, deadlines, and mock dates so nothing sneaks up on you.
- **Look after your well-being**
  Balance study with rest, exercise, and time to relax — you'll feel better and perform better.
- **Talk to someone if you're struggling**
  Don't let stress or worries build up; teachers and support staff are there to help.
- **Remember: every day counts**
  Each lesson brings you closer to your goals. Even missing one day can mean missing vital learning that could make the difference in your final results.

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?

THERE ARE 365 DAYS IN A YEAR
YOU ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN SCHOOL FOR 190 OF THEM
LEAVING 175 DAYS TO BE AT HOME AT THE WEEKEND AND ON HOLIDAY

OVER A SCHOOL YEAR AT PCS WITH 5 LESSONS A DAY:

PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE	NUMBER OF DAYS IN SCHOOL	NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	NUMBER OF LESSONS MISSED
100%	190	0	0
95%	180	10	50
94%	178	12	60
86%	163	27	135
85%	161	29	145
75%	143	47	235

MISSING SCHOOL MEANS:
MISSING OUT ON FUN PROJECTS AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
STRUGGLING TO CATCH UP ON WORK
DISCONNECTING WITH SCHOOL FRIENDS

ATTENDANCE	AVERAGE GRADE LAST YEAR'S ROUND UP
95% -100%	4.79
95-90%	3.98
90-85%	2.96
Less than 85%	1.63

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Year 11 Autumn Mock Exam Calendar November 2025

Date	AM	Start	Finish	PM	Start	Finish
Monday 3 November	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XX
Tuesday 4 November	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XX
Wednesday 5 November	English Language	9.00	10.45	History	1.15	2.45
Thursday 6 November	Maths (Calculator)	9.00	10.30	Geography	1.15	2.45
Friday 7 November	English Literature	9.00	11:15	Spanish (Listening and Reading) Foundation Higher	 1.15 1.15	 2.25 3.00
Monday 10 November	Combined Science (Biology) Biology	9.00 9.00	10.10 10.45	French/Spanish Writing Foundation Higher	 1.15 1.15	 2.15 2.30
Tuesday 11 November	Combined Science (Chemistry) Chemistry	9.00 9.00	10.10 10.45	Dance Design and Technology	1.15 1.15	2.45 3.15
Wednesday 12 November	Geography	9.00	10.30	Further Maths	1.15	2.45
Thursday 13 November	Maths (Non Calculator)	9.00	10.30	Computer Science	1.15	2.45
Friday 14 November	Sociology Creative iMedia	9.00 9.00	10.45 10:30	French (Listening and Reading) Foundation Higher	 1.15 1.15	 2.25 3.00
Monday 17 November	Combined Science (Physics) Physics	9.00 9.00	10.10 10.45	Computer Science	1.15	2.45
Tuesday 18 November	Statistics	9.00	10.30	XXX	XX	XX

Please note: If you have any queries regarding your entries you must speak with your subject teacher in the first instance.

Reminders for exams:

Every student will need the following items of equipment in order to complete their examinations:
- Black ink pen or black biro
- A HB pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A pencil sharpener

In addition to these items, OCR Mathematics and Science exams require:
- A scientific calculator (students are responsible for their own calculators, including replacing batteries and making sure that the calculator is in good working order before their exam)
- A protractor
- A compass

Please also note the following:
- All equipment must be taken into the exam room in a transparent container (such as a transparent pencil case or a clear plastic bag).
- A bottle of water can be brought into the venue in a clear bottle but any labels must be removed.
- Coloured drinks and food are not permitted.