



# Newsletter 33 25-26

2025-2026 Whitchurch Primary School  
7.03.26 22 Bristol Road, BS14 0PT

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## Attendance percentage

School	94.2%
National	94.9%

# ATTENDANCE SPECIAL

As you can see from the chart above, Whitchurch hovers 0.7% below national. As a school, we like to be above national in all areas, from how well our children achieve in phonics, to how they fare in national tests; and indeed we are!

However, attendance is below national, and it is this that will cause a detrimental effect on the school.

For one, children are missing a great deal of the fantastic education we provide to our children. Not just engaging and interesting formal lessons in the morning, around the key life skills of reading, writing and maths, but also those in the afternoon, revolving around the arts and humanities.

Secondly, this will affect our next OFSTED rating. Criteria has changed, and schools with an attendance score below national will find it difficult to obtain the new 'expected standard' rating. Any rating below this will have a negative effective on the community, and see our school viewed in a negative light.

Thirdly and most importantly, non-attendance, and particularly lateness, makes teaching and learning very difficult. On occasion we have dysregulated children who do not want to come in to school. We provide these children with a quiet space to regulate and calm in the mornings. By arriving late, the calmness in this space is affected as children have to walk through it when they arrive late.

Lateness also means that teachers and learning partners have to be redeployed to help late children catch up on the work they've missed, taking this support from those who may need it more.

We start lessons at 8:40am. 5 minutes late DOES matter.

Thank you to the majority of parents and carers (94.2% of you!) who do get their children to school on time, every day, and apologies to those who may only be late/non-attending on the odd occasion; but we do ask those who are persistently late, and have low attendance due to avoidable reasons, to join us on our journey at Whitchurch to ensure all 'achieve our best together'.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

I would be grateful if you could help us reach out to those families and practitioners who have a positive story to tell about B&NES, and those who work to support children with SEND.

As an area, we are constantly working to do our best and improve where we know we can. We also know, because families and partners tell us, that we do things well. In the last academic year, across all key stages, B&NES children with SEN Support and EHCPs had better educational outcomes than the regional and national averages.

Part of this inspection will include the opportunity for parents and practitioners to tell us what it is like to receive support from all of our services for children and young people with SEND in B&NES.

I would be incredibly grateful if you could help find the parents, schools, and early years settings staff and practitioners you know we have helped, who have told you our work has been positive, and encourage them to share their positive stories via the surveys below.

**Parent and carer survey:** For parents and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 with SEND in Bath & North East Somerset. Link: <https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10406115>



**LAST WEEK'S  
PRAISE WINNERS!**