**Hirst Wood Nursery School & Children’s Centre**

**Attendance – on time every day**

One of the best things that you can do for your children is to make sure they attend school on time every day in order to support their learning and development.

**Why attendance is important**

Coming to nursery every day is important because:

* Your child will learn more and do better throughout their education
* Your child will feel happier about coming to nursery if they come every day
* Your child will develop good habits around attendance that will stay with them when they start statutory school



Research shows that children with poor attendance can be disadvantaged in later life. They may find it harder to make and maintain friendships and ultimately are less likely to gain qualifications.

Establishing good habits from the start helps children settle more quickly into school and positive routines. Whilst the legal requirements for children to attend school do not apply to children under 5 years starting with good attendance improves children’s confidence and self-esteem.

We appreciate that life is busy for parents and we understand that sometimes delays happen, but please try to get your child to school on time as there’s so much fantastic teaching and learning happening that you don’t want them to miss anything. We want every child to be able to fully participate and benefit from the wide range of fantastic opportunities that we offer.

**If your child is unwell…**

Your child should come to nursery every day unless they are unwell. If your child is unwell we ask that you let us know by telephoning 01274 584368 before 9.00am ideally. We will ask the nature of your child’s illness – this is for monitoring purposes only. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must stay away from school until 48 hours after the symptoms disappear.

Please note that it is our policy to contact parents if you have not advised us that your child will not be attending. We will do this on the first day of unexplained absence. This is not about checking up on families but we have a duty of care to ensure that children are safe. If your child is well enough to return to school, but with prescribed medication from the Doctor we will ask you to complete a Medicines Agreement.

**Holidays**

Holidays should be taken during school holidays if at all possible. If you would like to take time off during term time, we request that you complete a holiday request form which will be considered by the Head of School. For safety reasons we will ask where you plan to take your child, the reason for the trip and details of the duration.

**Monitoring**

We monitor children’s attendance carefully and will always get in touch with you if your child is absent without an explanation. We will be publicising the percentage attendance for each class each half term – let’s work together to make this as high as possible.

**Remember…**

Regular attendance in Nursery is just as important as good attendance at Primary and Secondary school.