

# Want to find out more?

## HELPLINES & WEBSITES

- **Manchester Children's Information Service**  
0800 083 7921  
www.manchester.gov.uk/children/parents  
– for copies of tip sheets and other leaflets, parenting courses and local services/events
- **Parentlineplus**  
0808 800 2222  
www.parentlineplus.org.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/parenting
- www.parentscentre.gov.uk
- **School Attendance Improvement Service**  
0161 234 7178
- **Advisory Centre for Education**  
0808 800 5793  
www.ace-ed.org.uk

In this leaflet, the term 'parent' includes carers, such as grandparents, foster carers or step-parents



Manchester **NHS**  
Primary Care Trust

\* This tip sheet is one of a range of resources produced as part of Manchester's Parenting Strategy.



Visit your local library for more information and access to the internet

For more information and support, you could try talking to your:

- CHILD'S TEACHER
- SCHOOL NURSE
- GP

اسلام پبلک لی واپی پائیسو دیر کسٹ لری  
نیرٹا نکرے دیرلبرنٹن دیرلبرنٹن  
نیرٹا دیر 0800 083 7921 ڈے کسٹ لری

للحصول على هذه المنشورة باللغة العربية الرجاء  
الاتصال بالهاتف بدارة معلومات الأطفال على  
الرقم 0800 083 7921

Si aad ku hesho nusqada warqad yarahan iyadoo  
af Soomaali ah fadlan telefoon u dir Adeega  
Warbixinta Caruurta ee 0800 083 7921

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات اردو میں چاہئے تو چلڈرن انفارمیشن سروسز کو 0800 083 7921 پر فون کیجئے۔

لغفا برای دریافت این جزوه به زبان فارسی با سرویس اطلاع کونکت

(Children's Information Service) به شماره 0600 083 7921 تماس بگیرید

如欲索取這份單的中文版，請致電 0800 083 7921 聯繫兒童資訊服務

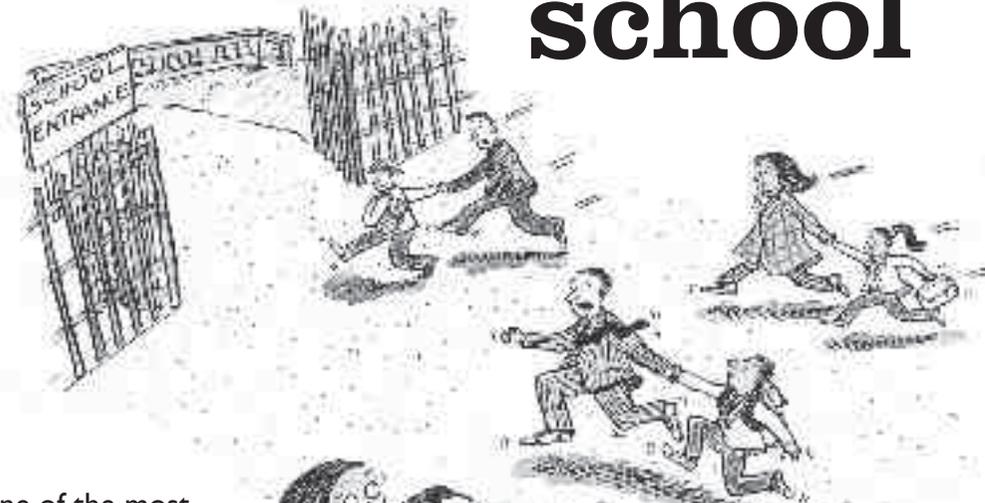
নথাকার এই নিবন্ধনটি একটি কপি করা হয়। যদর টেলিফোন কলনা বাচ্চাদের ডেখার কড়িফে  
0800 083 7921 এই নম্বরে।

● Produced by Manchester Education Partnership © Manchester City Council  
Permission is given to reproduce this material for use with Manchester parents only



**TIP SHEET**  
FOR PARENTS OF **3-11** YEAR OLDS

# Getting your child to school



One of the most important things you can do for your child's future is make sure they **go to school**.

Missing school means **missing out** on learning and social life. The more they miss, the harder it is to go back.

Children avoid school for many reasons.

Help them **deal with problems** now and you will help them grow up strong and confident – so they can **learn** and **achieve**.



## KNOW THE LAW!

If your child is between **5 and 16 years old** and is a registered pupil at a school, it is your **legal responsibility** to make sure they attend regularly.

## Why does school matter?

### LEARNING

It's very important for your child to go to school regularly and on time when they are in primary school. If they miss lessons they don't learn vital skills – and it's hard for them to enjoy school and keep up with classmates.

### LOSING CONFIDENCE

Children need confidence to achieve. Feeling like a failure makes them unhappy in school and out of it. If your child has any learning difficulties they need to be in school - so problems get noticed and they get help.

### FRIENDS & SOCIAL LIFE

Friends are important to children. School is a place for them to learn about getting on with other people. If a child misses a lot of school it's hard for them to fit in with their group of friends.

### SIGNS OF UNHAPPINESS

- being quiet or behaving badly before school
- often saying they feel ill
- not talking about school
  - changes in friendships

### REASONS FOR NOT WANTING TO GO TO SCHOOL

- problems with friends and bullying
- difficulties with learning
- worries about problems at home
- fear when starting a new school

### SAFETY

If you let your child stay off school now, they are unlikely to go regularly when they get to secondary school. Children and young people out of school are vulnerable. If you want your child to be safe later on, get them into the habit of going to school now.



Talk to your child – don't wait for them to tell you what's wrong.



## Working with your child's school

### A UNITED FRONT

Listen to your child about problems at school. Take them seriously – but don't criticise members of staff.

Your child will feel more secure if they know you are working together with school to support them.

### KEEP IN TOUCH!

Don't be afraid to contact school about your child's needs - or other issues. Tell them about any problems at home which may affect your child. Good communication between you and the school is good for your child.



### HEALTH PROBLEMS

If your child is ill, make sure you tell school on the first day they are absent.

If they have a long absence, ask for help to make sure they catch up what they have missed.



### Develop good habits

- **Expect** them to go to school every day and get them there on time.
- They need **plenty of sleep** on school nights. Stick to a sensible bedtime.
- **Don't** let them watch telly, use the computer or play out just before bedtime.
- **Sort out** clothes and school bag in the evening. Help them do it for themselves as they get older.

### TAKE HOLIDAYS IN THE HOLIDAYS!

**Don't** take family holidays in term time. Having a good time together **won't** make up for what they miss at school. And you give them the **message** that school doesn't matter.