



MAT approach to lateness – Adult version

As a MAT and as a school, we know that ANYONE can be late. Things that can impact on the day could be:

- Traffic jams
- The alarm not going off on time
- An accident at home- like a spilt breakfast down a uniform that needs changing

These things are nobody's fault and can happen to ANYONE!

Frequent lateness is what we need to watch out for.

Did you know that being 20 minutes late every day for a year is the same as missing 3 whole weeks of school?

What are the effects of being late?

- It disrupts your child's education
- If your child is constantly missing a particular subject e.g. Phonics sessions or the introduction to a Maths unit- they will start to fall behind in this area and become disengaged and lose interest
- When your child does arrive at school late, they may be tired, stressed, out of breath and unable to concentrate for a while
- Their work may suffer as they won't know what to do (because they have missed the introduction) and school stops being fun
- Even though being late may not be yours or your child's fault, it can be embarrassing and stressful for them. Many children find it hugely embarrassing to arrive late in the morning and see all heads turn as they arrive at the classroom -this can lead to anxiety and absences in the longer term
- Being late means they don't get to see their friends before school to have a chat and catch up and they begin to feel left out of their social circles
- There may be other sanctions as a result of being persistently late – please refer to your setting's attendance policy for details of these.

What can YOU do to avoid YOUR child being late all the time?

- Discuss as a family why being on time is important to your child's education
- You could ensure that you have your child has their own alarm set the night before as well as having one set for yourself. You could even set it ten minutes earlier to ensure you have plenty of time for any unplanned accidents like spillages
- You could make sure their bag is packed the night before. Include things like their homework and PE bag if you know your child has to have to spend time searching for these in the morning
- You could encourage your child/ children to get dressed to music- can they get themselves dressed before the song ends?
- You could help your child to also lay out their uniform ready the night before as this will save you all time in the morning
- Make sure to leave home with plenty of time to get you to school. You might want to allow for extra time if the weather is bad or you know there will be queues of traffic in the usual places
- All these little tips should mean that your child arrives at school in a calm and happy manner feeling ready to learn
- If your child is an older child, who walks to school by themselves or with a group of friends- you may be unaware of their lateness. A phone call from school might take place to alert you to this. Make sure you speak to your child about what is causing them to be late.

What happens if I still need extra help with my child's lateness?

Remember you can always speak to your class teacher or an adult in school who can support you with this. There are also **Family Liaison Support Workers** or EWOs (Education Welfare Officers) available to discuss lateness may also highlight issues around morning routines, sleep, or travel arrangements that school can work with parents to address.

