



Tips if your child just doesn't like school



Your child may be refusing to go to school because they don't like it, find it boring or irrelevant or don't want to be there. They may be skipping school without your knowledge, going in but not attending classes, arriving late or leaving early.

Skipping a day here or there may not seem that bad, but the more school your child misses, the harder it may become for them when they are in class.

Tips to help

Tip #1: Your child's school can help

If your child is skipping school or classes, the school should get in touch with you. Schools are there to support all their students and help everyone make the most of school life. They will want to support your child to attend school, and can help you work out ways to engage with them before it becomes a bigger issue.

Help and support

[Parentclub.scot/school-support](https://parentclub.scot/school-support) has more tips and advice.

Tip #2: Encourage them to try new things

School isn't just about learning. Most schools offer lots of different activities, and some of these may seem relevant to your child even if their lessons don't. And these activities are also a great opportunity to make new friends.

Tip #3: Show them the bigger picture

It's easy for children to think things like 'I'll never use maths in the real world' or 'I don't need to read this boring book'. But the skills they learn in school help them understand the world around them. For example, they'll need maths to balance a budget when they get older, and studying texts in English can help them be more critical about everything they read, like internet scams and 'fake news'.

Tip #4: Talk about their future

It may help to chat to them about what they'd like to do when they leave school. You could have a look at the My World of Work website (myworldofwork.co.uk) to spark some ideas. They could also chat to a Skills Development Scotland careers adviser at school.