

ATTENDANCE 2017

The Education Welfare Act (2000) promotes school attendance. Section 17 of that legislation states that it is a statutory obligation on parents to ensure that their child attends a recognised school once registered in the school. Furthermore, where a child is absent from the school, the parent is required under the Act to notify, in writing, the Principal or Class Teacher of the reason for the child's absence. Parents are asked to use the Notes for Absences section in the School Homework Diary for this purpose. The Act states that the relevant authorities will be informed of pupils who have been absent for **twenty days or more for any reason** (this includes illness, holidays outside school holidays, etc.). Children deemed at risk will be registered with Tusla.

Parents are discouraged from taking holidays during school term. It is agreed that school work will not be sent home with children, to be done while they are on holidays. When a pupil has missed 15 schooldays, an automatically generated text is sent to parents. A second text is automatically sent when a pupil has missed 20 school days.

Role of Parents:

The role of parents is to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child(ren).

The parent of a child shall cause the child concerned to attend a recognised school on each school day. Where a child is absent from the school where he/she is registered, the parent of the child is required under the Act to notify the school of the reason for absence. Letters from parents concerning illness and doctor's certificates will be kept on file in the school, by the class teacher, for one year. If a child has missed more than 20 days, notes relating to that child will be given to the Principal

Role of Teacher:

- To encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually.
- To identify pupils at risk and develop strong links between school and family to promote good attendance

.

Role of Principal:

- To inform the relevant authorities (i) when a student is absent in excess of 20 school days in a school year, (ii) where a student is suspended, (iii) where a student's name is removed from the register, or (iv) where, in the opinion of the Principal, the student is not attending school regularly.
- To follow the Tusla guidelines for promotion of attendance.
- To inform the Board of Management of school attendance rates.