

School Attendance / Punctuality

It has always been the policy of St. Eithne's G.N.S. to encourage good attendance and punctuality

Why is good attendance/punctuality so important?

- A good education gives your child the best possible start in life.
- If your child goes to school regularly she will be better able to keep up with school work and as a result enjoy school more.
- Coming to school in time is a good habit which will stand to your child throughout her working life. Late arrivals can be disruptive for everyone.
- A good education helps young people to obtain secure employment and develop into mature and responsible citizens.
- Children who attend school are less likely to be drawn into anti-social behaviour and/ or become involved in crime.

Under the Education and Welfare act 2000 schools are required to monitor school attendance and report on pupil attendance in certain circumstances. The school reports to the National Education and Welfare Board which was established to support school attendance and follow up on children who are not attending school regularly.

When does a school report to the N.E.W.B.?

The school reports when

- a student is suspended for 6 days or more
- a student is absent for 20 days or more
- a student moves to another school
- a student is expelled
- the Principal is concerned about a student's attendance

Strategies to encourage good attendance

St. Eithne's school has put the following strategies in place to foster an appreciation of learning and good attendance.

- The school through its involvement in the School Completion Programme has a person employed to monitor punctuality and attendance on a daily basis.
- Pupils who have full attendance for the month are presented with a certificate at Assembly. Their names are posted up on the notice board beside the Principal's office.
- Special certificates and prizes are given to children who achieve full attendance for each term. Full attendance for the year is especially acknowledged.

Role of Parents

- Parents must write a note of explanation for all absences. The school will accept telephone communication concerning a child's absence, however a written note is preferred.
- Medical certificates should be passed on to school.
- The reason for the absence is then noted.
- Do not take holidays during school term as they count as absences from school.
- Make sure your child understands that you do not agree with her missing school unless it is for a valid reason.

When are parents contacted by the school ?

- if the pupil is at risk of developing school attendance problems
- if the parents fail to explain a pupil's absence
- if the pupil is regularly late for school
- if the pupil's name is being passed on to the N.E.W.B.

Attendance records of children who transfer to another primary school will be passed to the Principal of the school as soon as notification of transfer has been received.

Attendance records of children who transfer to St. Eithne's School will be sought from previous school.

Attendance records of pupils transferring to Second level schools will be sent to the school as soon as enrolment has been confirmed.

