

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE EXPLAINED

The Board, under Section 31 of the Education Act, is responsible for “taking all reasonable steps to ensure the attendance of students enrolled at its school”.

Parents have a legal obligation to ensure all children attend school daily from the ages of six to sixteen years.

Every day a student is not at a school is a day he or she is not learning. Over time, patterns of non-attendance can seriously disadvantage young people, placing them at a higher risk of poor achievement and early drop out, and cutting short their potential to benefit from schooling now and in the future.

A day off every Monday or Friday is very disruptive to a child’s learning as he/she will miss out on information needed to complete tasks through the rest of the week. The rest of the children in the group will have moved on and the absent child can easily be left behind.

Teachers take the roll twice each day and this is entered onto an electronic register. We get weekly reports from the Attendance Service alerting us to children who are regularly truant. If we get no explanation for the absences we make a referral to the Attendance Service who will follow-up with a home visit. Parents can be prosecuted if a child has extended or frequent absences without good reason.

Justified absence	Unjustified absence
Cultural or sporting representation (regional or national)	No explanation – truanting
Overseas (Justified absence will depend on frequency of trips, length and purpose.) A one-off trip overseas for a family occasion or a learning opportunity could be considered justified.	Holiday in New Zealand (Justified absence will depend on purpose of holiday and the frequency of these trips)
Bereavement	Sleeping in Recovering from weekend’s activities Sales/shopping/birthday
Force of Nature– road closure, flooding, bus breakdown, car accident, flood, fire	Parents working early morning – always late
Exceptional family circumstances , domestic violence, protection order, family separation etc	It’s my birthday Helping Mum/Dad
Illness Hospitalisation Sickness Appointments other than medical/dental	Travel and attending a non- school related sporting event or concert
Exam leave Ballet/music (etc) exam	
Medical or dental appointment (these count as present in ½ day summary statistics)	Taking the dog to the vet Moving house, packing, unpacking

ABSENCE COMMENTS ON SCHOOL REPORTS

Less than 94% Disruptive to Learning

94% - 97% Satisfactory

98% – 100% Excellent