

Every Day Counts

Scoil na Croise Naofa Attendance Policy.

What does the Education Welfare Act mean for us?

Parents

- You must ensure your child attends school regularly.
- If your child is absent from school you must tell the school the reason for the absence.

Schools

Must inform the Educational Welfare Officer:

- If your child is not attending school regularly.
- Has missed 20 days or more.
- Is developing a pattern of absences.

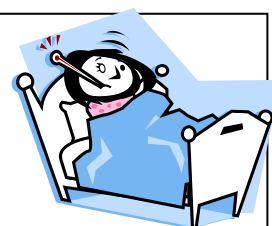


Effects of Poor Attendance

- Child misses work particularly if the teacher begins something new.
- Poor attendance at Infant level means your child will miss out on the foundations for all subjects and may lead to problems later.
- Children miss time with friends. This may lead to feelings of isolation and loss of self-confidence.
- Children develop bad habits for later life.
- Child misses out on fun activities.
- Poor attendance leads to Early School Leaving.
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Acceptable Absences

- Illness
- Accidents
- Hospitalisation/Medical procedures
- Death in family.



What can a parent do?



**Make sure the school has your mobile telephone number
for Text a Parent.**

Be Positive



- Encourage and praise your child.
- When possible, get involved in activities at school.
- Talk to your child about the value of school.
- The longer you stay in school the better choice of career you will have.

Family Problems

- Reassure your child.
- Send your child to school even if your child is late or could not do his/her homework.
- Send a note to the teacher or call up to the school

How do I ensure my child does not fall behind?

- Find out what he/she is doing in school.
- Continue with reading, writing and spelling.
- Revise Maths especially tables, but do not try to teach your child anything new.
- Keep contact with his/her friends to avoid feeling isolated on return to school.



Notes

- Check sacks for notes re: days off, early closings etc.
- Check texts from school.
- Keep notes together on a notice board

Suggestions for Parents by Parents

Be organised!

- Sacks
- Lunches
- Uniforms

READY the night before.



Early to bed.....Early to rise

But:

If you get up late send your child in to school with a note for teacher.

Leave all electronic devices downstairs at night.



Make sure homework is done.

If there is a problem with homework

- **Send a note in the Homework Journal**
or
- **Talk to the Class teacher**

Be Firm!

especially on

- **Birthdays**
- **Early closure days.**
- **Fridays/Mondays**
- **Days when older children may not have school**

If your child is sick or in hospital

- Inform the school
- Give a written note to the teacher when he/she returns
- A medical certificate will be required in some cases.

If you suspect your child may be pretending

- Check is there anything worrying your child.
- Send him/her in to school.
- Reassure your child that the school will contact you if he/she is sick in school.

Medical/Dental/Speech Therapy Appointments

- **Collect your child from school.**
- **Return your child to school if medically fit, immediately after appointment.**



Encouraging Good Attendance

What can the school do?

- Reward good attendance.
- Encourage good communication between home and school.
- Encourage children to voice concerns to the teacher if there is an issue for them at school.
- Identify and support children with poor attendance issues.
- Identify patterns of non-attendance in particular families and bring this to the attention of the parents.
- Draw parents attention to attendance e.g. at Parent/Teacher meetings, class meetings or through Home School Coordinator.
- Regular contact with Education Welfare Officer
- Give parents as much notice as possible of days off.
- Plan enjoyable activities on days which frequently have low attendance.
- Include attendance on School Improvement Plan.
- Encourage accountability for absences.



This Attendance Policy was formulated by parents and teachers in Scoil na Croise Naofa in October 2014. This policy is a revised and updated version of the 2002 policy. The changes were ratified by the Board of Management in December 2014. It was given in hard copy to all parents and it was uploaded to the school's website.