

Attendance

The school has an Attendance Policy and Statement of Strategy for School Attendance which was ratified by the Board of Management.

Targets for 2019/2020 School Year:

1. Improvement of 1% on baseline data (2017/2018) in annual attendance level, so looking for an increase overall attendance level from 91.3% last year to at least 91.7%



2. Special Initiative – Improvement of 2% on baseline data (2017/2018) in the attendance levels for the month of June 2020 from 87.4% last year to at least 88%

3. Reduce the number of pupils missing 40 days or more by 25% on baseline data (2017/2018), so from 6.9% last year to under 6% in the current year.

Initiatives to Promote Attendance:

- Best Attenders for previous month in each class – reward of visit to games room
- Best Class/Grade for the month – reward small party/film in hall
- Assembly – we stress to pupils the importance of attendance, listen to pupils' views on ways of improving attendance, announce the winner of the best class/grade for attendance and name pupils chosen in each class for their efforts with attendance in the previous month.
- Awards for FULL ATTENDANCE at the end of each term (Christmas, Easter and Summer) and for the whole school year.

Communication re Absences:

- If your child is absent, please send in writing the reason for the absence e.g. illness, holiday, urgent family reason etc.
- When a child has been absent for 5 and 10 days, the school will send you an automatic text
- When your son/daughter has been absent for 15 days and 20 days, the principal will send you a letter to remind you of the number of days s/he has been absent



Legislation: (Citizen's Information – School attendance)

Parents: The legislation governing school attendance in Ireland is the [Education \(Welfare\) Act 2000](#). Under the Act the minimum school leaving age is 16 years, or the completion of three years of post-primary education, whichever is the later. Parents are required to ensure that their children from the age of 6 to the age of 16 attend a recognised school or receive a certain minimum education.

Under the Education Welfare Act 2000 parents must inform the school if their children will be absent from school on a school day and the reason for the absence, for example, illness. It

is best to do this in writing. The Child and Family Agency strongly advises against taking children out of school to go on holiday during term-time.

Schools: Schools are obliged to keep a register of the students attending the school. They must also maintain attendance records for all students and inform the Child and Family Agency's educational welfare services if a child is absent for more than 20 days in a school year. The principal must also inform the Child and Family Agency's educational welfare services if, in his/her view, a student has an attendance problem.