

Oola N.S.

**School Attendance
Policy**

Oola N.S School Attendance Policy

The aims of the Attendance Policy in Oola N.S. are to:

1. Encourage pupils to attend school regularly and punctually.
2. Share the promotion of school attendance amongst all in the school community.
3. Inform the school community of its role and responsibility as outlined in the Education Act.
4. Identify pupils who may be at risk of developing school attendance problems.
5. Ensure that the school has procedures in place to promote attendance/participation.
6. Develop, subject to available resources, links between the school and the families of children who may be at risk of developing attendance problem.
7. Identify and remove, insofar as it is practicable, obstacles to school attendance.

The school will ensure that:

- The importance of school attendance is promoted throughout the school
- Pupils are registered accurately and efficiently
- Pupils attendance is recorded daily
- Parents or guardians are contacted when reasons for absences are unknown or have not been communicated
- Pupils attendance and lateness is monitored
- School attendance statistics are reported as appropriate to:
The Education Welfare Board
The Education Welfare Officer
The Board of Management

Punctuality / Attendance

School is open from 9.05am and children are required to be in their classrooms not later than 9.20am. All pupils and teachers are expected to be on time. The school will contact parents/guardians in the event of pupils being consistently late. The Principal is obliged under the Act, to report children who have attained 20 days absence to the Education Welfare Board. Parents will receive an advisory note when absences reach 17 days.

Guidance for Parents

Section 21 (9) of the Act states that: “a pupil’s absence can only be authorised by the Principal when the child is involved in activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved”. The school principal cannot authorise a child’s absence for holidays during school time. However, it is essential that parents inform the school of such arrangements.

Reasons for pupils’ absences should be communicated in writing, by parents/guardians to the school and will be retained by the school. To facilitate this, such communications may be in the homework diary, note, or through a phone call to the Principal. These notes will form a record which may be inspected by the Education Welfare Officer on a visit to the school.

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Parents/guardians can promote good school attendance by:

- Ensuring regular and punctual school attendance
- Notifying the School if their children cannot attend for any reason
- Working with the School and Education Welfare Service to resolve any attendance problems
- Making sure their children understand that parents support approval of school attendance
- Discussing planned absences with the school
- Refraining, if at all possible, from taking holidays during school time
- Showing an interest in their children's school day and their children's homework
- Encouraging them to participate in school activities
- Praising and encouraging their children's achievements
- Instilling in their children, a positive self-concept and a positive sense of self-worth
- Informing the school in writing of the reasons for the absence from school
- Ensuring, insofar as is possible, that children's appointments (with dentists etc) are arranged for times outside of school hours.
- Contacting the school immediately if they have concerns about absence or other related school matters
- Notifying, in writing, the school if their child/children, particularly children in junior classes, are to be collected by someone not known to the teacher.

Pupils:

- Pupils have the clear responsibility to attend school regularly and punctually
- Pupils should inform staff if there is a problem that may lead to their absence
- Pupils are responsible for promptly passing on absence notes from parents to their class teacher
- Pupils are responsible for passing school correspondence to their parents on the specified day

A strategy for promoting good school attendance

- The school curriculum, insofar as is practicable, is flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child
- The school will promote development of good self-concept and self-worth in the children
- Support for pupils who have special educational needs are in place in accordance with Department of Education & Science guidelines
- Internal communication procedures are in place to inform teachers of the special needs of pupils
- The assistance of the Education Welfare Officer will be utilised
- Encouragement from class teacher/principal to attain best attendance

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- The attendance rates of pupils will be monitored by the class teacher in the first instance and the class teacher will notify the Principal of any concerns regarding the attendance of any child
- Pupils with a poor attendance record will, insofar as is practicable, be supported in an effort to improve their attendance by maintaining good home school links with parents/guardians.

Principal

The Principal will:

- Ensure that the school register of pupils is maintained in accordance with regulations
- Inform the Education Welfare Officer:
 - ~ If a pupil is not attending school regularly
 - ~ When a pupils has been absent for 20 or more days during the course of a school year
- Inform NEWB regarding excess absences, suspension or expulsion
- Inform parents of a decision to contact the Education Welfare Officer of concerns regarding a pupil
- Insofar as is practicable, promote the importance of good attendance among pupils, parents and staff

Class Teacher

The class teacher will:

- Keep a record of explained and unexplained absences
- Encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually
- Inform the Principal of concerns she/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil
- Teacher/Principal may reward pupils with exceptional attendance records.

Record/Communication

Subject to the restrictions of the Data Protection Act, attendance, behaviour and academic records of children who transfer to another primary school will be passed to the Principal of the school, by post, as soon as we receive written notification of transfer. Attendance, behaviour and academic records of pupils transferring to a second level school will be sent to the school, if requested, once enrolment has been confirmed.

Signed:

_____ **Chairperson, BOM**

_____ **Principal**

Date:
