

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the School Attendance Act, every child to whom the Act applies—specifically those between the ages of 6 and 15 years—is legally required to attend school on each day that the school is open and in operation. This statutory obligation remains in effect unless a reasonable and acceptable explanation is provided for the child's absence. Valid reasons for absence may include illness, bereavement, family emergency, or other exceptional circumstances, subject to the discretion of the school authorities.

Parents and guardians have a legal duty to ensure their child's consistent attendance and must inform the school promptly of any absence, along with the reason for it. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation may result in further action by the school.

The principal teacher, who also acts as the designated school attendance officer, is responsible for monitoring student attendance within the school. If a child is absent frequently, or if the principal deems that absences are not supported by a reasonable explanation, appropriate measures must be taken in accordance with the law.

Where deemed necessary, and especially in cases of persistent absenteeism or where attendance issues remain unresolved, the principal may make a formal referral to the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) assigned by Tusla - the Child and Family Agency. The EWO will then assess the case, engage with the family if required, and work collaboratively with all parties to support the child's return to regular school attendance. This may involve offering guidance, implementing interventions, or taking further statutory action where appropriate.

Regular school attendance is critical for a child's academic progress, social development, and long-term wellbeing. As such, all stakeholders—including parents, school staff, and statutory agencies—have a shared responsibility to uphold and support this legal requirement in the best interest of the child.