



## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS A Parent's Guide



### WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT –

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- ☑ To learn.
- ☑ To have fun.
- ☑ To make new friends.
- ☑ To experience new things in life.
- ☑ To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- ☑ To achieve.
- ☑ To gain qualifications.
- ☑ To develop new skills.
- ☑ To build confidence and self-esteem.
- ☑ To have the best possible start in life.

#### Key Point

Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

**Miss School - Miss Out!!**



### WHAT THE LAW SAYS –

Under Article 45 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 ("the 1986 Order"), it is the duty of parents who have a child of compulsory school age<sup>1</sup> to ensure their child receives efficient, full time education suitable to their age, aptitude, ability and to any special educational needs they may have. Such education may be provided by regular attendance at school or otherwise, for example home education.

Paragraph 3 (1) of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order states that it is the duty of a parent of a registered pupil of a school to secure their regular attendance at school. This applies to all children of compulsory school age who are on the roll of a school. As a parent you are legally responsible for making this happen.

Under Part III of Schedule 13 to the 1986 Order, if a child or young person who is registered at a school does not attend regularly, a parent can receive a fine not exceeding £1,000 in court (for each child). An Education Supervision Order (ESO) could also be made by a court under Article 55 of the Children (NI) Order 1995.

#### Key Point

Education is not an option – it's compulsory.

### FAMILY HOLIDAYS –



You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child or young person who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work.

In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence.

#### Key Point

Avoid taking family holidays during the school term.

<sup>1</sup> www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/admission-and-transport/pupils-and-classes/compulsory-school-age.htm



### HOW PARENTS CAN HELP –

- ☑ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ☑ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- ☑ Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- ☑ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- ☑ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- ☑ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- ☑ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ☑ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- ☑ Attend parent evenings and school events.
- ☑ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- ☑ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ☑ Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

#### Key Point

Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.



### EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

#### Key Point

Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.



## NA FÁTHANNA A LÉIRÍONN CÉ CHOMH TÁBHACHTACH IS ATÁ TINREAMH SCOILE –

Má tá páiste d'aois scoile cláraithe ag scoil ar leith, tá sé riachtanach go bhfreastalaíonn siad ar a scoil ar bhonn rialta agus go gcoinníonn siad pátrún maith tinrimh le linn a dtréimhse scoile.

Tá tinreamh scoile den scoth tábhachtach le deis a thabhairt do pháiste nó do dhuine óg a gcuid poitéinsil a bhaint amach.

Thíos faoi seo, léigh roinnt de na príomhfáthanna a léiríonn cé chomh tábhachtach is atá sé go bhfreastalaíonn páistí ar scoil:

- Le foghlaim.
- Le sult a bhaint as.
- Le cairde nua a dhéanamh.
- Le taithí a fháil ar rudaí nua.
- Le feasacht a fhorbairt ar chultúir, ar chreidimh, ar eitneachas agus ar dhifríochtaí inscne.
- Le hardchaighdeáin a bhaint amach.
- Le cáilíochtaí a bhaint amach.
- Le scileanna nua a fhorbairt.
- Le tógáil ar mhuintín agus ar fhéinmheas.
- Leis an tús is fearr sa saol a bheith acu.

**Caill Scoil -  
Caill Amach!!**

### Eochairphointe

Tá sé níos dóchúlú go mbeidh daoine óga a chailleann laethanta scoile gan cúis mhaith ar bhonn rialta, leithlisithe óna gcairde, go dtearcghnóthóidh siad i scrúduithe agus go nglacfaidh siad páirt in iompar frithshóisialta.



## AN MÉID A DEIR AN DLÍ –

Faoi Alt 45 den Ordú um Oideachas agus Leabharlanna (Tuaisceart Éireann) 1986 (“an tOrdú 1986”), tá sé mar dhuilg ar thuismitheoirí a bhfuil páiste ar aois éigeantach scoile<sup>1</sup> acu, cinntiú go bhfaigheann a bpáiste oideachas atá éifeachtach, lánaimseartha, oiriúnach dá n-aois, dá n-inniúlacht agus dá gcumas agus go bhfreastalaíonn sé ar riachtanas oideachais speisialta a d’fhéadfadh a bheith acu. Is féidir oideachas dá leithéid a sholáthar trí thinreamh rialta ar scoil nó a chomhionann; oideachas ón mbaile, mar shampla.

Deir Paragraf 3 (1) de Sceideal 13 den Ordú Oideachais 1986 go bhfuil dualgas ar thuismitheoir a bhfuil páiste dá c(h)uid cláraithe mar dhalta i scoil ar bith, tinreamh rialta scoile a p(h)áiste a chinntiú. Baineann seo le gach páiste ar aois éigeantach scoile agus atá cláraithe ar rolla scoile. Mar thuismitheoir, luíonn freagracht ort de réir an dlí a chinntiú go dtarlaíonn seo.

Faoi Chuid III de Sceideal 13 den Ordú 1986, mura bhfreastalaíonn páiste nó duine óg atá cláraithe ag scoil ar an scoil sin ar bhonn rialta, d’fhéadfaí fineáil ní níos mó ná £1,000 sna cúirteanna (in aghaidh an pháiste) a ghearradh ar a t(h)uismitheoir. Anuas air seo, d’fhéadfadh le cúirt Ordú Maoirseachta Oideachais (OMO/ESO) a dhéanamh faoi Alt 55 d’Ordú na bPáistí (TÉ) 1995.

**Eochairphointe** Ní rogha atá san oideachas – tá sé éigeantach.

## LAETHANTA SAOIRE TEAGHLAIGH –



Is féidir leat do thiomantas d’oideachas do pháiste a léiriú trí laethanta saoire a sheachaint le linn an téarma. Má ghlactar laethanta saoire le linn an téarma, caillfidh páiste, nó duine óg ar bith atá as láthair ón scoil, amach ar fhoghlaim thábhachtach agus titfidh siad siar ina gcuid obair scoile.

I ngach Bliain Acadúil, níl ach uasmhéid 190 lá reachtúla scoile – fágann seo cuid mhaith ama le laethanta saoire a shocrú lasmuigh d’am an téarma.

Déanfar catagóirí ar laethanta saoire glactha le linn am an téarma mar neamhláithreach neamhúdraithe.

**Eochairphointe** Seachain laethanta saoire teaghlaigh le linn an téarma scoile.

<sup>1</sup> www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/admission-and-transport/pupils-and-classes/compulsory-school-age.htm



## NA BEALAÍ INAR FÉIDIR LE TUISMITHEOIRÍ CABHRÚ –

- Cruthaigh gnáthamh maith ar maidin agus um thráthnóna chun go bhfuil do pháiste ullmhaithe don lá scoile amach roimhe/roimpi.
- Cinntigh go dtéann do pháiste ar scoil go rialta agus go leanann siad rialacha na scoile.
- Cinntigh go sroicheann do pháiste an scoil in am – ní go mall.
- Socraigh coinní fiaclóra agus coinní dochtúra lasmuigh d’uaireanta scoile nuair is féidir.
- I gcónaí abair leis an scoil má tá do pháiste as láthair ar chúis tinnis – ba chóir go leanfa seo le nóta scríofa nuair a fhilleann do pháiste ar ais ar scoil.
- Glac go dáiríre le múitseáil – mura bhfuil do pháiste ag freastal ar scoil mar a cheapann tú, d’fhéadfadh go bhfuil siad á gcur i mbaol – Cé lena bhfuil siad? Cad atá ar siúl acu?
- Tóg laethanta saoire teaghlaigh lasmuigh d’amanna an téarma scoile.
- Labhair le do pháiste faoi chúrsaí scoile agus léirigh spéis ina gcuid obair scoile (obair bhaile san áireamh).
- Freastal ar thráthnóna do thuismitheoirí agus ar ócáidí scoile.
- Mol agus cuir luach le gnóthachtálacha do pháiste ar scoil.
- Tacaigh i gcónaí le foireann na scoile ina n-iarrachtaí iompar deacair nó dúshlánach a smachtú.
- Plé fadhbanna nó deacrachtaí ar bith leis an scoil – tá an fhoireann ann le cabhrú agus léireoidh siad tacaíocht.

### Eochairphointe

Ná bíodh eagla ort cabhair a lorg má thagann fadhb chun cinn.



## TÁ TÁBHACHT AG BAINTE LE GACH LÁ SCOILE –

Is ionann gach uile lá scoile a chailleann páiste agus lá foghlama cailte.

Is féidir leis na céatadáin tinrimh a bheith míthreorach.

100% Tinreamh	0 Lá cailte	Tinreamh den scoth
95% Tinreamh	9 Lá as láthair 1 Seachtain agus 4 Lá Foghlama Cailte	Tinreamh ceart go leor
90% Tinreamh	19 Lá as láthair 3 Seachtaine agus 4 Lá Foghlama Cailte	Drochthinreamh
85% Tinreamh	28 Lá as láthair 5 Seachtaine agus 3 Lá Foghlama Cailte	Fíor-dhrochthinreamh
80% Tinreamh	38 Lá as láthair 7 Seachtaine agus 3 Lá Foghlama Cailte	Do-ghlactha
75% Tinreamh	46 Lá as láthair 9 Seachtaine agus 1 Lá Foghlama Cailte	Do-ghlactha

Do roinnt tuismitheoirí, d’fhéadfadh go bhfuil cuma inghlactha ar 90% tinreamh, ach go réalaíoch, ciallaíonn 90% tinreamh go gcaillfidh do pháiste leathlá scoile gach seachtain nó 19 lá scoile le linn na scoilbhliana - sin 4 seachtaine, geall leis.

### Eochairphointe

Tabhair an deis is fearr sa saol do do pháiste – tá tábhacht ag baint le gach lá scoile.

TÁ TÁBHACHT LE TINREAMH SCOILE  
**Treoir do Thuismitheoirí**

