

## **School Attendance Strategy**

St. Patrick's N.S will support all pupils and ensure their right to education

Parents are made aware of the importance of regular attendance at school. The legislation governing school attendance in Ireland is the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. Parents are required to ensure that their children from the age of 6 to the age of 16 attend a recognised school on each day that the school is open and classes are in progress.

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 National Educational Welfare Board if any child is absent for more than 20 days in a school year. The school must also inform the N.E.W.B. if a student is not attending regularly, is suspended for more than 6 days or is expelled from school.

The National Educational Welfare Board is the national agency established to ensure that every child attends school regularly, or otherwise receives an appropriate education. The Board monitors school attendance and takes a range of measures where children do not attend school. The N.E.W.B. strongly advises against taking children out of school to go on holidays during term time.

School strategies to promote full attendance

1. Parents are regularly reminded of the importance of;
  - a) Regular and punctual attendance,
  - b) The obligation as outlined in the Education Act to notify the school of absence and reason for same

(Absence should be recorded in the relevant section at the back of the school journal).

2. Pupils may not leave the school during school hours unless they are collected by a parent / guardian and signed out at reception.
3. Parents will be discouraged from taking holidays during school time. Planned schoolwork will not be assigned for the duration of these holiday periods.
4. Teachers send the names of children they identify with poor attendance to the principal so that every effort can be made to support those at risk children.
5. The end of year school report to parents provides the school attendance record for that year.