



SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

An Independent Public School
Working Together, Achieving More

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The Importance of Good Attendance and Punctuality!

Due to a departmental edict from the Director General, from the Department of Education and Training, the school is required to work towards **IMPROVING THE ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY RATES** of our students.

There are a number of good reasons why your child needs to attend school regularly. By regularly, we mean above 90% of the time. Which equates to no more than five days per term. Of course there are always exceptions to this when children need to take time off school for perfectly acceptable reasons.

Why Attend School Regularly?

Attendance at school is a prerequisite for student achievement. Students who are regularly absent are at the greatest risk of:

- Dropping out of school early
- Becoming long term unemployed
- Becoming caught in a poverty trap
- Becoming welfare dependant
- Being involved in the justice system
- Being socially isolated
- Having gaps in their knowledge and understanding
- Harm during time of absence
- Being more likely to be involved in illegal activities
- Feel insecure about school

Although some, or all, of these potential problems may not apply to your child. The habits and routines we establish in primary education are what will follow your child through their academic journey.

“A child who is healthy, attends school, and is able to read will have better educational outcomes” – Educational and Health Standing Committee

So what are acceptable reasons for being off school?

Please note the suggestions in the table are not a definitive list and should be used more as a tool to guide you.

| Acceptable Reasons | Unacceptable Reasons |
|----------------------------|--|
| Illness | Birthdays |
| Essential appointment | Holidays (unless prior approval granted) |
| Injury | Visiting relatives |
| Infectious disease | Out of school sports |
| Bereavement | Helping parents at home |
| Principal approved absence | |

What should I do if my child is away from school?

- Please let the school know at the earliest convenience, this may be when your child returns to school.
- If your child is going to be away for more than three days please let the school know by phone or email.
- Send a note with your child to explain why your child was away.

What's the role of the school?

The school is here to help and work in partnership with parents that are having difficulties in getting their children to school. We have a number of strategies and interventions that can be used to help. If you are having problems please don't hesitate to contact the school so we can all start working on a solution.

Table F 1 Educational risk through non-attendance

| Period of Absence (years 1 to 10) | Rate of attendance | Equivalent Schooling Missed | Level of educational risk |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Average of 5 days a term | 90% | 1 year | Classified as regular attendance |
| 1 day a week | 80% | 2 years | Indicated risk |
| 1.5 days a week | 70% | 3 years | Moderate risk |
| 2 days a week | 60% | 4 years | Moderate risk |
| 3 days a week | 40% | 6 years | Severe risk |
| 5 weeks a term | 50% | 5 years | Severe risk |