

ATTENDANCE

At school we are working very hard to lift your child's achievement and being at school every day is the first and most important part of having an education. If your child is not here they can't



learn. We appreciate the effort people are making to ensure that their child is here to receive an education as good attendance is one of the strongest indicators that your child will achieve their potential at school.

The Ministry of Education states every child should attend 95% of the time which is 2-3 days away per year.

Congratulations if your child achieves this and we appreciate your support, however there are some children who are often away without good cause.

Benefits of good attendance are;

- Your child will do better at school.
- Students who attend regularly when they are young are most likely to attend well at secondary school too.
- Students who have the routine of getting up, having breakfast and arriving on time, find holding down a job easier.
- Children learn to be resilient, work tough and manage small problems.
- School is much more fun when children are here everyday. Friendships are stronger, they always know what is happening and are more likely to be picked for special activities or programmes.

The Ministry of Education has made it clear that truant children must improve their attendance. Your child's attendance is collected electronically when the teacher marks the roll and the Ministry is alerted when your child is away without a valid reason.

This term we are putting in place a new attendance process. For most parents it will mean no change but if your child is away frequently then it will mean a closer contact with the school and Attendance Officer.

- DAY ONE

If your child is away one day without any communication with the school you will be contacted by the school requesting a valid reason.

- DAY TWO and THREE

If your child continues to be away with no reason given or the reason is unjustified, you will be contacted by the school.

- DAY FOUR

A REFERRAL TO THE ATTENDANCE SERVICE will be made. The Attendance officer is employed by the Ministry of Education.

- AFTER 10 DAYS

A non-enrolment notice is sent to the Ministry of Education who have a process which could include legal action to get your child attending school.

Education is our
passport to the
future, for
tomorrow
belongs to the
people who
prepare for it
today
-Malcolm X

Irregular attendance also badly effects learning . This is when a child is away for one or two days frequently.

- AWAY FOUR DAYS IN FOUR WEEKS without a justified reason will also be referred to the ATTENDANCE SERVICE

A referral will mean the Attendance Officer will make contact to enquire why your child is away and work out a plan to support your child to get back to school and to stay at school in future.

After a referral the school will be required to send updates on your child's attendance to check they are still attending regularly.

The school can often help. We can provide lunches, and often do. Your child just needs to ask the teacher for food or you can ring or text the school. Uniform can be excused for a day if there is a problem but we need to be aware of it. We can also provide raincoats for wet days or help a younger student walk to school by having an older student pick them up. Sometimes talking to a child or having an incentive chart for a child who is tardy about coming to school helps. Most problems we can help with and we are happy to do so.

COMMUNICATION IS IMPORTANT.

If your child is unwell or there is another valid reason to not attend please keep them home and contact the school. Children all get sick at times and we do have some children who have special health concerns that we are aware of. These families should not have a concern as your child has a valid reason for being away but it is still important that these families contact us to let us know of absences.

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

We have established a new process to reward good attenders and those that have improved. We have a system of awards and special treats that children can work towards individually and as a class.

Every child deserves the best chance for an education.

Poor attendance robs children of their potential and their future.



✂ _____

I have read this notice about attendance.

Please give _____ from Room____ - 5 x House Points. They are in _____ House. (if you are unsure, we will fill in)

Signed: _____

