

## Education Authority Western Region

### STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

43 Derry Road

Strabane

Co. Tyrone

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20<sup>th</sup> September 2023



**Principal Mrs. C Thompson**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wish to remind you of the following items and bring others to your attention.

#### **Staff Update**

I wish to inform you that Mrs. Heather Cummings, Nursery Assistant, is retiring on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. We wish Mrs. Cummings a very happy retirement and thank her for her years of service both here in the School Nursery but also as a member of staff in Strabane Community Play Group.

#### **Free School Meals**

Please register your child/ren for Free School Meals if you believe they are entitled to this provision even if you do not wish to use it. The school benefits financially from this and we would like to emphasise the importance of registering. [www.eani.org.uk/fsm](http://www.eani.org.uk/fsm)

#### **Milk**

If your child wishes to take milk in Term 1, the cost is £15. If you have not already done so, please send this in a clearly marked envelope.

#### **Cash For Clobber**

Thank you for continuing to use our Cash for Clobber recycling bank which goes directly to helping raise money for our school funds. Please remember the following items and their categories:

##### **ALLOWED**

- Clothing
- Paired footwear
- Blankets
- Curtains
- Sheets
- Towels

##### **NOT ALLOWED**

- toys
- hard plastics
- pillows/duvets
- rugs
- glass, paper, metal

#### **Home time**

Pupils who leave school independently at the end of the school day, must ensure that their parent has informed the school directly if there is a change in their normal home time pattern. Best practice is to do this via a written note. Staff will not give permission for a pupil to leave school in a different format to normal unless this has been agreed between the parent and the class teacher.

[www.strabaneps.co.uk](http://www.strabaneps.co.uk)

Awarded May 2023

Download our **FREE APP: Strabane PS, Strabane**

Find us on Facebook: Strabane Primary School PTA Facebook page



Pupils who walk to nearby car parks unaccompanied are reminded to ensure they remember to walk safely on the footpath and remain sensible as they journey to meet their parent.

### Attendance (see leaflet attached)

Excellent attendance at school is essential to allow our pupils to achieve their full attendance.

- 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.

### PHA - illnesses

There may be times when your child is sick and is unable to attend or indeed, advised not to attend. *(Please see attached leaflet as a guide regarding sicknesses and absences).*

Please notify the school via a phone call on the first day of their absence. A written note of reason/s for absence should be sent to school upon their return to school.

### Calendar

- Registration deadline for P7 pupils wishing to sit the SEAG test is currently **5pm on Friday, 22nd September 2023**
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September                      Staff Development Day – No pupils in school
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October                              Hallowe'en dress-up and disco
- 30<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November                  Half Term
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November                              Scholastic School Bookfair

Thank you for your cooperation on all matters listed above.

*C. Thompson*

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. C Thompson  
Principal





## 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.

**Miss School -  
Miss Out!!**

### **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.



## 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](http://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.



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







# Do I need to keep my child off school?

## Chicken Pox

Until all spots  
have crusted  
over

## Conjunctivitis

No need to stay  
off but school  
or nursery  
should be  
informed

## Diarrhoea & Vomiting

48 hours from  
last episode

## Glandular Fever

No need to stay  
off but school  
or nursery  
should be  
informed

## Hand, foot & mouth

No need to stay  
off but school  
or nursery  
should be  
informed

## Impetigo

Until lesions are  
crusted & healed or  
48 Hours after  
commencing  
antibiotics

## Measles or German Measles

4 days from  
onset of rash

## Mumps

5 days from  
onset of swelling

## Scabies

Until after first  
treatment

## Scarlet Fever

24 hours after  
commencing  
antibiotics

## Slapped Cheek

No need to stay  
off but school  
or nursery  
should be  
informed

## Whooping Cough

48 Hours after  
commencing  
antibiotics

## Flu

Until  
recovered

## Head Lice

No need to stay  
off but school  
or nursery  
should be  
informed

## Threadworms

No need to stay  
off but school  
or nursery  
should be  
informed

## Tonsillitis

No need to stay  
off but school  
or nursery  
should be  
informed