



**Saint Columba's National School,
North Strand,
Dublin 3.**

School Attendance Policy

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Adopted by the Board of Management, by the Teachers and by the Parents.

The Children of Saint Columba's National School have a good attendance record generally. When children are absent, it is usually very evident to the teacher why this is so. However, the setting up of the National Education Welfare board (NEWB) has changed the structure of reporting of a child's absence.

What Parents must do

It is no longer adequate for a parent to approach a teacher when a child returns, to say “sorry he/she was out yesterday, he/she had a cold”. A parent should now produce a note stating the reason for absence. It may sound ludicrous to some parents, but that is what needed for every day absences. Parents need to keep a copy of these notes for themselves, as they may be visited by the National Inspectorate.

What the Principal must do

The principal is obliged to inform the NEWB when a child has missed 20 days. The reasons for absence must be stated. How can this be done if there is no record of same in the school? So, it is imperative that parents adopt a new practice of composing a note for each absence, and keeping a copy. The principal will inform the parent that they have been reported to the board, when such a report has been made.

School attendance is of immense benefit to the child

- It ensures that the child gets the grounding in all subjects.
- It ensures continuity in their learning.
- It has social implications - children who are absent a lot tend to have difficulty with friendships.
- It allows the child to shine - as every child has some uniqueness.
- It enhances responsibility - if a teacher cannot depend on a child's presence it fractures dependability.
- It makes subjects easier for the child- not harder.
- It is one measure of a parents/guardians input to a child's welfare.