

*Every day*

**COUNTS!**



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School success starts  
with attendance

# Importance of Regular School Attendance

- IN SCHOOL EACH DAY'S LESSON DEPENDS ON UNDERSTANDING YESTERDAY'S INSTRUCTION.
- EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM NOT ONLY AFFECTS CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR PERFORMANCE BUT ALSO FUTURE ACHIEVEMENT.
- THOSE WHO FREQUENTLY 'SKIP' SCHOOL ARE LESS LIKELY TO PROGRESS TO FURTHER STUDY.
- POOR ATTENDERS FACE GREATER DIFFICULTY IN ACCESSING PAID EMPLOYMENT AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL.
- POOR ATTENDANCE ALLOWS STUDENTS THE TIME TO ENGAGE IN NEGATIVE ACTIVITIES.
- ABSENTEEISM LEADS TO INCREASED SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES

# SOME STATISTICS...

- ▶ HIGH ATTENDERS ARE HIGH ACHIEVERS



- ▶ STUDENTS THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENT CONTINUOUSLY WILL BE MORE PREPARED, RELAXED AND CALM COME JUNE/EXAM TIME
- ▶ ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE, ENABLES YOU TO SUCCEED AND ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.

# Reasons to Attend School

- IT IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN “MAKE NEW FRIENDS” AND MEET EXISTING FRIENDS.
- SCHOOL IS A SAFE PLACE AND OFFERS STUDENT SUPPORTS WHICH YOU CAN AVAIL OF IF NEEDED.
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- GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH TEACHERS.
- SCHOOL TEACHES THINGS OF VALUE.
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GOOD WORK ETHIC IS AN INTRINSIC AND VALUED ATTRIBUTE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.
- SCHOOL OFFERS YOU THE CHANCE TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS THROUGH A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES - ACADEMIC AND NON ACADEMIC

# The Main Reason for Non-Attendance

- SICKNESS
- BULLYING
- POOR ROUTINE
- IF STUDENTS HAVE MISSED A LOT OF DAYS. THEY FIND IT HARD TO RE-ENGAGE INTO SCHOOL.
- POOR RELATIONS WITH TEACHERS – STUDENTS WHO SKIP SCHOOL ARE MORE LIKELY TO FEEL THAT THEIR TEACHERS DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM AND THAT THEY CAN'T TALK TO THEIR TEACHERS IF THERE IS A PROBLEM
- SOME STUDENTS HAVE DIFFICULTY ENGAGING WITH LARGE NUMBERS.
- INTERESTINGLY, CURRICULUM WAS NOT SEEN AS A BIG PROBLEM BY MANY.



# What can the school do ?

- STUDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO RE-ENGAGE IF THEIR PEERS/TEACHERS INFORM AND HELP THEM WITH HOMEWORK THEY HAVE MISSED.
- TEACHER-STUDENT RELATIONS ARE CRUCIAL TO STUDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING AND ATTENDANCE.
- IF THE SCHOOL PROJECTS THE BELIEF THAT ALL STUDENTS CAN SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY, THIS INFLUENCES STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ATTENDANCE.
- CURRICULUM SHOULD BE ASSESSED TO ENSURE THAT IT SUITS THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS.
- RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM THAT IDENTIFIES THE REASON FOR NON-ATTENDANCE & LATENESS.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO LATENESS AS AN INDICATION OF THE BEGINNING OF AN ATTENDANCE PROBLEM

# Early School Leavers Comments:

## STUDENT 1

"THE CLASS GOT ON REALLY WELL WITH THE TEACHER, BUT I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THEM BECAUSE I WASN'T THERE. THE OTHER STUDENTS WOULD BE IN MORE AND I WOULDN'T BE IN TO GET TO KNOW THEM."

## STUDENT 2

"IF I HAD ATTENDED SCHOOL MORE I WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN SO FAR BEHIND."

## STUDENT 3

"IT WAS HARD TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN OUT FOR A WHILE, I FELT SO FAR BEHIND, I HAD SO MUCH TO CATCH UP ON AND IT WAS VERY SCARY."

## STUDENT 4

"THE TEACHERS DIDN'T CARE IF I WAS THERE OR NOT AND JUST GAVE ME HASSLE FOR NOT BEING IN WHEN I DID COME IN."

# Tips to Success

## Attendance:

Be Consistent

Be on Time

Be at School

## Attitude/Character:

There is always something good or positive to focus on.

A positive attitude sets the tone, your attitude is your choice.

## Stay Connected:

Communicate with teachers regularly

Participate in school activities

Connect with friends.





# Facts

- ▶ In 2018- 59,900 students on average missed school, this is equivalent to 13 days in a school year.
- ▶ Schools are obliged to alert TUSLA if a child has missed more than 20 school days a year.
- ▶ Supports are made available to students and their parents but the authorities do have the power to prosecute parents where they fail to co-operate.

# Questions to Consider when analysing your data from eportal with your mentor.

1. DO I CONSIDER THE AMOUNT OF DAYS/CLASSES MISSED A LOT?  
TOTAL SINCE JANUARY IS 55 DAYS.
2. IS THERE A **RELATIONSHIP** BETWEEN MY ATTENDANCE AND MY AVERAGE GRADE IN ANY SUBJECT ?
3. DO I SEE A **PATTERN** IN THE DAYS I HAVE BEEN ABSENT SINCE JANUARY?
4. ARE THERE SOME CLASSES I MISS MORE THAN OTHERS AND WHY ?
5. COULD I TRY AND IMPROVE MY ATTENDANCE AFTER EASTER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR??