

ATTENDANCE POLICY

ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

It is the policy of the school to foster an appreciation of learning among the pupils and to encourage regular attendance at school.

The following strategies will be implemented to encourage regular attendance:

- Merit stickers for attendance achievement will be issued to each class teacher to be awarded ;
 - at the end of each month
 - at the end of each term
- Pupils who complete 100 days without absence will be awarded a certificate.
- Pupils who complete a full school year without absence will be suitably recognised and rewarded.
- Pupils with 3 or fewer absences will also be recognised and rewarded.
- Names of pupils who complete their primary education with full attendance will be communicated to the DES who will issue a certificate in recognition of this achievement.

Attendance Requirements

In accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000 the following procedures will be implemented:

- Pupils are required to be in attendance during the hours of instruction on each school day as specified by the DES.
- Parents are required to notify the school in writing giving the reason for absence for each day or part thereof.
- Persistent absence or late-coming or failure to complete the school day will be recorded by the class teacher and communicated to the Principal.
- Absences in excess of 20 days in aggregate will be reported to the Education Welfare Officer in accordance with the Education Welfare Act.
- Particular attention will be given to the early identification of pupils who are at risk of developing school attendance problems.