

Castlegar N.S. School Attendance Strategy Booklet

Let's all do something about it!



NEWB - Background

New Way of Working

What Parents can do

Seven Useful Tips

What Teachers can do

*A six step plan for encouraging
Improved attendance*

What Schools can do

*Eight steps to bring your school
Attendance strategy to life*

When is a child too Sick for School?

*Guidelines for common illnesses
Symptoms and signs, what to do.*

This booklet is available to download from our school website www.castlegarns.com

Your child has a right to an education.

A good education, combined with loving care and encouragement, will give your child a great start in life.

A good education means your child will be more likely to:

- learn more
- develop their skills and talents
- make and keep friends
- have more confidence
- do better at exams
- be happy in life
- be employed
- get a higher earning job when they start working
- avoid getting involved in crime
- be happy in life.



National Education Welfare Board

New Integrated Approach to School Attendance, Retention and Participation: September 2010
Progress Update

Background

In May 2009 the Department of Education and Skills (DES) extended the remit of the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) and charged it with developing a single, strategic approach to attendance, participation and retention in schools to meet the needs of children who are at risk of early school leaving or of developing attendance problems.

A core part of the new strategy will be an integrated child and family centered education support service drawing on the skills, expertise and knowledge of four services – Home School Community Liaison (HSCL), Educational Welfare Service (EWS), School Completion Programme (SCP) and the Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers (VTST).

New Way of Working

The New Way of Working, which was developed by the staff of the NEWB in 2008, aims to target children in greatest need and develop a more outcomes driven service and is being rolled out in selected locations around the country. At the heart of the model is a strengthened collaboration with schools and other colleagues in education support services.

Benefits of integration

The purpose of the integration project is to improve educational outcomes for children. There will be more unified service delivery from the perspective of the child, family and the school.

It is envisaged that integration will result in better engagement with other Departments, agencies and services, statutory and non statutory working with children and families. Policy making too should be enhanced with the increased emphasis on planning, outcome measurement and the gathering of evidence on the impact of interventions.

Further updates will be placed on the School / NEWB website as the work progresses.

every day counts in a child's education

What can Parents do to improve School Attendance?*

After school every day:

- Make sure that the homework is done as early as possible
- Keep the school uniform for school wear only



The night before:

Try and have ready

- School bag
- Lunch
- Uniform
- Get your child to bed at a reasonable hour every night
- Set the alarm on your mobile phone or the alarm clock for the morning



Before school every day :

- Get up on time in the morning so that you will not be rushing
- Don't allow your child to watch television in the morning
- Get your child to eat some breakfast every morning
- Talk positively about school
- If possible don't allow your child go to the shop in the morning as this delays them and they could be late for school
- Let your child know that you will be there to collect him / her in the afternoon or that you will be waiting at home when they come in
- You know your child best. Only keep your child at home if he / she is really sick. (see pages of this booklet for guidelines *When is a child too sick for school*)



“Ready for School Routine” - Easy steps to get to school today

1. Get up on time
2. Breakfast
3. Uniform
4. Books
5. Journal
6. Bag
7. Leave home on time

What can Teachers do to improve School Attendance?

- ◆ Welcome students every morning
- ◆ Praise each student for their effort
- ◆ Give students a reasonable amount of homework
- ◆ All teachers should give homework each night
- ◆ No homework at weekends (at primary school)
- ◆ Reward students for good attendance



What can **Schools** do to improve School Attendance?*

- ◆ Give efforts to promote attendance and attendance successes a high profile within the school
- ◆ Establish an Attendance Care Team in the school
- ◆ Keep up to date attendance records that are reviewed regularly by the Attendance Care Team in order to respond to patterns of non-attendance as well as patterns of good or improved attendance
- ◆ Create positive systems of reward for good and improved attendance
- ◆ Develop a greater awareness amongst students and their parents of the long-term benefits to be gained from a good attendance record
- ◆ Ensure a consistent approach to attendance promotion throughout the school
- ◆ Involve all stakeholders in supporting high expectations for school attendance and attainment
- ◆ Monitor that stakeholder involvement from the perspective of students, parents, teaching and other staff, school management and the community at large.



When is a child **Too Sick For School?**

There are three key reasons to keep a child home from school

- 1. Fever over 100.4 degrees F or 38°C**
- 2. The child may have a contagious illness or rash.**
- 3. The child is not well enough to participate in class.**

- The average child has 6 to 12 illnesses per year, so sickness is a part of normal childhood. It can be difficult to balance the child's school attendance with the risk of spreading the illness to others in school.
- Fever is a symptom which usually indicates that the body is fighting an infection. A child with fever over 100.4 degrees F (38°C) needs to stay home until the fever is gone for 24 hours.
- Rashes that are itchy or scaly may be contagious and need to be checked by the nurse or doctor. If a child with a rash is ill looking, is having trouble swallowing or breathing, they need to be seen by the doctor.
- A cough need not keep a child from school unless it is interfering with sleep or ability to take part in activities.
- Coughs and runny noses can persist for up to two weeks after a cold. Children can return to school once they no longer have a fever.
- Children can attend school with a mild sore throat unless they have other symptoms as well, such as fever, vomiting or abdominal pain.
- Children with a vomiting illness (repeated vomiting) need to stay home until the vomiting stops and they are eating normally.
- Children with diarrhoea also need to stay home until stools have been normal for at least 24 hours.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water is the most important and effective way of preventing the spread of contagious diseases.

Guidelines for common **childhood illnesses**

Illness	Symptoms and Signs	What to do
Fever	100.4°F or 38°C	Stay home, must be fever free for 24 hours before returning
Headache	If the child can't do normal activities	Stay home
Vomiting	More than twice in 24 hours or if diarrhoea also	Stay home until 24 hours after last vomit
Diarrhoea	More than 3 stools in 24 hours	Home until 24 hours after last bout
Sore Throat	If not eating or fever	Return as soon as well or 24 hours after starting antibiotic if prescribed
Cold Symptoms	Stuffed or runny nose, sneezing, mild cough	No need to stay home
Cough	If the cough disrupts normal activity	Return to school after the doctor has cleared child of serious illness e.g. shopping cough
Asthma	If the child can't do normal activities. If coughing a lot.	Needs to see the doctor or asthma nurse to review treatment.
Conjunctivitis (Red Eyes)	With yellow or green pus	May return 24 hours after treatment started
Chicken Pox	Some children have a fever, abdominal pain, sore throat, headache, or a vague sick feeling a day or two before the rash appears	Return when the blisters are all dry and crusted over
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Not infectious once rash appears	No need to stay home unless drooling
Impetigo	Patch of red, itchy skin. Blisters develop on this area, soon forming crusty, yellow-brown sores	May return 24 hours after starting antibiotic medicine, 48 hours after starting antibiotic cream. Sores must be covered with dressing.
Ringworm	Ring Shaped or oval patch of scaly red skin	Return once started on treatment. Keep area covered.
Head Lice	Spread directly from head to head so short and tidy hair may help	They are a nuisance, not a reason to stay home.
Doctor or dentist visit		Back to school afterward unless the dentist or doctor says stay at home.

TRACKER FOR YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE SCHOOL YEAR 2010/2011

Please keep this for future reference should your child's attendance be called into question at a later date.

CHILD NAME: _____ CLASS: _____

DAY / DATE	No. of days missed	Reason for absence	Medical cert or note given to school?
Example: Mon & Tues 8 th & 9 th Nov	2	High Temp	Note given to class teacher 10 th Nov 2010

Continued over leaf →

DAY / DATE	No. of days missed	Reason for absence	Medical cert or note given to school?

**To date _____, your child has missed _____
days from school.**