

# All Children's Integrated Primary School

## ATTENDANCE POLICY



**To be reviewed: 2022-23**

All Children's Integrated Primary School, located in Newcastle, County Down, aims to provide a happy, secure environment in which children can learn effectively to realise their potential as unique

individuals. This aim permeates the ethos of the school, the teaching styles and approaches and the pastoral care arrangements.

### **Introduction**

Regular school attendance is crucial in raising standards in education and ensuring that every child can have full access to the school curriculum and reach their potential.

All Children's Integrated Primary School will strive to promote an ethos and culture which encourages good attendance and where each pupil will feel valued and secure.

### **Aims**

1. To improve/maintain the overall attendance of pupils at All Children's IPS.
2. To develop a framework that defines roles and responsibilities in relation to attendance.
3. To provide advice, support and guidance to parents/guardians and pupils.
4. To promote good relationships with the Education Welfare Service.

### **Roles**

#### **Role of the School**

The Principal at All Children's IPS has overall responsibility for school attendance; (teachers/designated staff) should bring any concerns regarding school attendance to his attention.

The Board of Governors provide support by reviewing school attendance figures and targets and ensuring it is referred to on the Principal's Report at each meeting.

Teaching staff regularly monitor the attendance and punctuality of pupils by ensuring that attendance is recorded at the beginning of morning and afternoon registration sessions.

To enable our school to accurately record and monitor attendance in a consistent way we will adhere to the guidance provided in the Department of Education Circular 2015/02, which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/school-attendance/recordingpupil-absences.htm>

All Children's IPS is committed to working with parents to encourage regular and punctual attendance.

#### **Role of Parents**

Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child(ren) of compulsory school age shall receive efficient full time education suitable to age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular school attendance or otherwise.

If a child is registered in school, their parent has a legal duty to ensure that they regularly attend that school.

It is a parent's responsibility to inform the school of the reason for a pupil's absence on the first day of absence. This should be confirmed with a written note when the pupil returns to school. If the absence is likely to be prolonged, this information should be provided to enable the school to assist with homework or any other necessary arrangements which may be required.

Pupils are expected to be in school at 8-55am for registration and the beginning of classes. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child is punctual. Lateness is recorded at registration and on your child's attendance record.

If your child appears reluctant to attend school please discuss the matter promptly with the class teacher or Principal to ensure that both you and your child receive maximum support.

### **Role of Pupils**

Each pupil at All Children's IPS must attend school punctually and regularly. If you have been absent from school, a written note from a parent/guardian must be provided to your teacher when you return.

### **Absence Procedures**

All Parents/Guardians are required to complete an absence notification form or write a letter which provides a clear reason for any absence.

### **Family holidays during Term Time**

All Children's IPS discourages holidays during term time due to the impact they have on pupils' learning. Family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence. Only in exceptional circumstances will a holiday be authorised.

See Article 45(1) of The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986

### **Education Welfare Service**

The Education Authority (EA) through the Education Welfare Service (EWS) have a legal duty to make sure that parents meet their responsibility towards their children's education.

If a pupil's absence causes concern, or if their attendance falls consistently below 85%, they will be referred to the EWS, if appropriate. EWS will support staff and parents in developing and implementing strategies to address or improve school attendance.