

Finn Valley College

Coláiste Ghleann na Finne

Drumboe Lower, Stranorlar, Lifford PO, Co. Donegal

Principal: Alan Thompson 074 9131684 E: finnvalleycollege@donegalvec.ie



Help your Child Succeed

A child who attends school every day, all day, will have a better chance in life. A student with good attendance will perform better in their exams and have a better chance of going to College or getting the job they want.

Did You Know?

- A child who is absent for more than two days in September is more likely to have poor attendance.
- Missing 10% of the annual school days (16 days) has a negative affect on academic performance. This is only two days a month..
- Absence is a predictor of school drop out.
- Absence from school does not only mean full days.

Being late or failing to attend all the day's classes is partial absence.

- Being 10 mins late a day adds up to approx. 5 days of school lost a year.
- 80% is a good result in Exams but not in attendance. If a child averages 80% attendance they lose 33 days each year. By the time that child has completed his /her Leaving Cert they will have missed an entire year of Secondary School.

Regular School Attendance gives your child a better chance in life.



Lateness

Disrupts lessons
Affects Achievement
May be Embarrassing



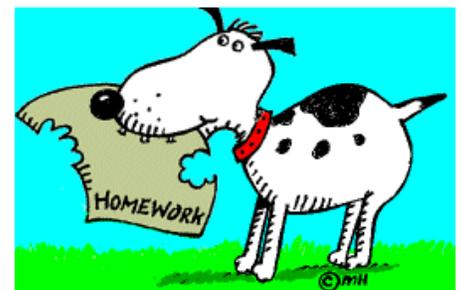


SCHOOL REFUSAL

Refusing to attend school can be a sign that a child may be losing interest/ having social difficulties/ struggling with school work.

Do You Recognise any of these signs in your Child?

- ◆ Won't get out of bed in the morning
- ◆ Won't go to bed at night
- ◆ Can't find uniform/books/school bag/PE Gear/ Practical Subject Folders
- ◆ Haven't done their homework
- ◆ Worried about a test/presentation/assignment
- ◆ On Social Media/ Watching TV late at night and before school

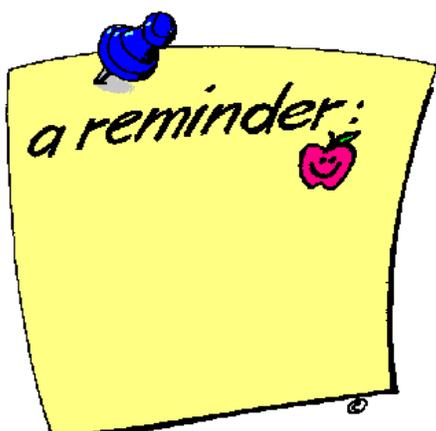


When students improve their attendance rate, they improve their chances of success in exams, in going to college or in getting work. Students with good attendance are more likely to have close friends and good social relationships.



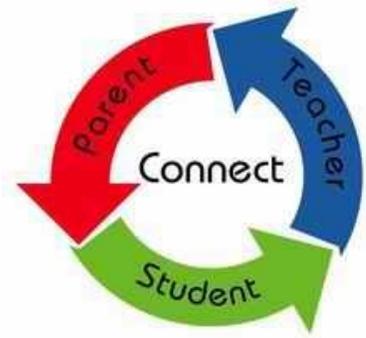
What Can You do?

- ◆ Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- ◆ Check and sign homework diary to ensure homework is done and read any notes from teachers
- ◆ Don't let your child stay at home unless s/he is truly ill. Remember that sore tummies and headaches can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay at home.
- ◆ If your child seems anxious about school, talk to him/her. There may be problems with managing their work/their classmates/relationship with staff.
- ◆ Depending on the difficulty you believe your child is experiencing speak to a member of staff (see over).
- ◆ Have a back-up plan for getting your child to school e.g. if they miss the bus or you cannot leave them to school e.g. a neighbor/family member.
- ◆ Avoid scheduling medical appointments and holidays during school time.



A child who is late or signs out early is recorded on the roll as 'Partial Absence'.

An absence whether explained or unexplained has the same impact on your child's attainment.



School Procedures on Attendance:

- * Roll taken ten times daily.
- * Late students must sign in with an acceptable reason in note form from parent.
- * Absence must be explained by way of note in student diary and signed by parent.
- * The tracking secretary may call home to check reason for absence.
- * After ten absences a letter will be sent home.
- * After twenty absences a second letter will be sent home and the Educational Welfare Board will be informed.

Contact Us on 0749131684

Home School Liaison Teacher: Ms Ward

Learning Difficulties: Ms Ward, SEN Coordinator

Subject Difficulty: Individual Subject Teacher

Bullying: Class Teacher or Principal, Mr Thompson

Behavioral Issues: Year Head

Personal Issues: Ms Summerville/Mr White, Guidance Counsellors