



Dear Parents/Carers,

Last academic year was the first to be unaffected by Covid 19 restrictions since 2018/19 and whilst attendance across the Island's schools was higher than the previous two years, it remained lower than pre-Covid figures.

The three years of disruption have not only impacted on pupils' learning, but social and emotional development too. Therefore, as we enter a new academic year, we want to support all our young people across all areas of their growth and development.

By working in partnership with your child's school, you are giving them the best opportunity to flourish and succeed.

We work from a principle that **Every Day Matters** and, as an Education Welfare Team, we recommend a range of strategies to help parents when encouraging their children to attend school. Some of these include:

- Prioritise school with your child. From their early school career onwards, set good routines and expectations for attendance. Chat about school and ask questions about their day.
- Whilst adhering to health guidelines, send your child into school even if they aren't 100%. Inform the school and trust them to call you if your child doesn't feel better as the day goes on.
- Communicate with school if you, or your child, has any concerns. The earlier you do so, the easier these are to resolve.
- Ask for support from your child's school. All schools have highly trained and experienced staff who can help. Schools have direct links to outside agencies that can also offer support. With attendance matters specifically, every school has either a school based or allocated central Education Welfare Officer who can offer advice.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time no matter the time of year or the age of your child. Some allowance can be granted at the discretion of the headteacher for exceptional circumstances therefore always contact your school before booking. Whilst a single holiday will likely result in you being informed by the school that the absence is being recorded as 'unauthorised', repeated holidays will be reported to the Education Welfare Team by the school, and through liaison with the Parish Centeniers, a decision will be made regarding possible legal steps being taken.

The most important message is to remain in communication with your child's school over all matters concerning attendance or ask to speak to your school's allocated Education Welfare Officer.

Yours sincerely

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