



St Ninian's Primary School



Attendance Policy 2019

Article 28

You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

The Law

Section 30 of the 1980 Education Act lays a duty on every parent of a child of 'school age' to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Attendance must be recorded twice a day, morning and afternoon. In secondary schools attendance is recorded each period.

Regulation 7 of The Education (Scotland and Placing Information) (Scotland) Amendment etc Regulations 1993 requires each child/young person's absence from school to be recorded in the school register as authorised: e.g. approved by the authority, or unauthorised; e.g. unexplained by the parent (truancy) or excluded from school.

- Parents must phone in or call the school to notify the school if their child will be absent from school.
- Attendance is monitored by the head teacher each term.

Family holiday not authorised by the school

Family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as unauthorised absence. Only in exceptional and very limited circumstances will schools authorise a family holiday during term time. Such circumstances may include:

- o A family holiday judged to be important to the well-being and cohesion of the family following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events;
- o Where a parent's employment is of a nature where school holiday leave cannot be accommodated (e.g. armed services or emergency services).

Where parents are in the emergency services and routinely take holidays outwith the school holiday when the option is available of taking leave during the school holiday, the absence will be considered unauthorised.

A family holiday classified under the 'authorised absence' category should not include such reasons as:

- o The availability of cheap holidays;
- o The availability of desired accommodation;
- o Poor weather experienced during school holidays;
- o Holidays which overlap the beginning or end of term;
- o Parental difficulty obtaining leave (with local judgement applied in cases where evidence is provided by the employer that it cannot accommodate leave during school holidays without serious consequences)