



14th September 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Returning to a new school is a very busy time for students, their families, and staff alike. We have eased into our return very smoothly and we wish to thank you for your organisation and support in getting your student ready and here with us on time every school day.

This year Scoil Dara will continue to focus on improved school attendance as one of our key goals for this academic year. With support from the ANSEO (an attendance tool for schools which is a collaboration between the Department of Education and TUSLA Education Support Service), we aim to empower children to attend school regularly and overcome any potential barriers they may face in their educational journey.

We will continue to use an inclusive model supported by a Multi-Tiered System of support.

Tier 1 – Universal - Support for all students

Tier 2 – Targeted – Extra help for some students through school-based services.

Tier 3 - Specialised – Intensive supports.

Why Attendance Matters

If your child misses...	That equals to...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that is ...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

Punctuality

We aim to educate and reinforce the required skill of good time keeping.

Arriving late to school in the morning or to class throughout the day is a loss of class tuition time and creates disruption to teaching and learning.

Missing...	That equals to...	Which is ...	After 13 years of schooling, that is ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes per day	1 hr. 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

The responsibility for school attendance and positive time keeping is a shared responsibility among families, students, and staff. Together we can build a positive culture on the importance and benefits of good school attendance and punctuality.

We appreciate your support in helping your student achieve his/her attendance goals in this new academic year. We require that parents input a note of explanation for all absenteeism or late arrival to school on vsware. If there are challenges presenting that are impacting your child's attendance, please contact the school or link in with your student's year head for support.

Every new day is a school day and here in Scoil Dara we want every student to be reaching for and achieving our school attendance motto,

“Present today, Powerful tomorrow”

Kind Regards

Michael Mc Donagh

Principal