



Date: 9th October 2020

Ref: DES 21/2020

To: All Parents (State Schools)

Subject: Attendance for scholastic year 2020 -21 due to COVID-19

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian,

The new scholastic year 2020-21 has commenced on Wednesday, 7th October 2020. Due to the current pandemic circumstances, the attendance of your son/daughter lies within your responsibility. However, it is to be noted that every young person is entitled for his/her education.

Therefore, kindly follow **Clarifications** indicated hereunder and then please fill in Form A and send it to the respective school either by email or insert it in an envelope addressed to the Head of School and post it in the school's letter-box, if you choose that your son/daughter benefits from online learning **by not later than Friday, 16th October 2020.**

Clarifications

1. *Vulnerable/High Risk students* - parents are to fill in and sign a form declaring that students will stay at home due to medical reasons. The form is to be accompanied by certificate from consultant (E certificates are accepted).
2. *Students whose parents opt to keep students at home* - Parents are also to fill in and sign a form taking full responsibility for their child's education. **The form will be valid until specified otherwise by the Ministry for Education and Employment following instructions by the Health Authorities.**

If after some time, you want your son/daughter to return physically to school, please fill in Form B to request that the student resumes attendance. This request will be considered by the school and you will be informed in writing regarding the date the student can start attending as the school needs to make the necessary arrangements before student is re-admitted due to current circumstances

In the case that your son/daughter is **attending school** and has fallen ill, the usual procedure is to be followed, ie. advise school by phone that child is not attending and then send Medical Certificate (MC) where doctor confirms that child is fit for school. Due to pandemic circumstances, MC should be sent by email (scan or photo) or deposited in the school's letter-box **before** student attends physically at his/her school.

We can understand that these are difficult times. However, with the collaboration of all, the health and safety of children and educators will be safeguarded.

Ms Maria Mc Namara

Director General
Educational Services