

**COMPREHENSIVE ATTENDANCE POLICY  
FOR  
ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL**

- Statement of objectives to be accomplished

St. Christopher School establishes this policy to ensure the maintenance of an adequate record verifying the attendance of all children at instruction in accordance with Education Law Section 3205. The policy is designed to ensure sufficient pupil attendance at all scheduled periods of actual instruction or supervised study activities to permit such pupils to succeed at meeting the State learning standards.

- Description of the specific strategies to accomplish each objective

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each school day prior to the first period of instruction.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each scheduled class period when pupils move freely between classes.
- Attendance will be taken after the pupils return from lunch
- Attendance will be taken on class and/or school field trips

- Determination of the kinds of absences, tardiness and early departures that will be excused and those that will not be excused; and a list of excused and unexcused absences and tardiness to illustrate each Handbook of Policies for Parish and Regional School located in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, p. 96

- A pupil is considered absent if not present when attendance is taken.
- A pupil who arrives after the time fixed by school policy for the beginning of the morning or afternoon sessions is tardy
- A pupil is absent for part of day if present when attendance is taken and then leaves school.
- Incidents of absence and tardiness will be classified as either excused or unexcused. An excused absence/tardiness is one recognized by the Education Department and the school administrators as valid and unavoidable. An unexcused absence/tardiness occurs when the reason offered does not show unavoidable circumstances or necessity.
- Truancy is the willful violation by a student of the compulsory attendance provisions of Education Law.

Excused	Unexcused
The following reasons for absence or tardiness may be considered excused.	The following reasons for absence or tardiness would ordinarily be considered unexcused.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sick</li> <li>• Scheduled medical appointments</li> <li>• Sickness or death in family</li> <li>• Day of religious observance</li> <li>• Bad weather; impassable roads</li> <li>• Court appearance</li> <li>• Family emergency</li> <li>• District bus problem</li> <li>• College interviews (limit 2)</li> <li>• Funeral</li> <li>• Other school activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music lessons</li> <li>• Take child to work</li> <li>• High school visits</li> <li>• Family trips</li> <li>• CYO trips</li> <li>• Didn't have a ride</li> <li>• Truant</li> </ul>

- Description of the coding system used to identify the reason for pupil's absence, tardiness or early departure, recorded in the register of attendance

The following coding will be used. Marginal notations may be made for clarification.

Excused	Code	Unexcused	Code
Sick	ES	Trip/vacation (family, CYO, etc.)	UT
Medical appointment (limited hours)	EM	Music lesson	UM
Family sickness/death/emergency	EF	Take child to Work day	UW
Religious observance	ER	Visit to high school	UV
Court appearance	EC	Problem with car/ride	UP
Weather/impassable roads	EW	Other (not deemed acceptable)	UO
District transportation	ED		
Other (documented/noted)	EO		
Out of school suspension		OSU	
In school suspension		ISU	

- Description of St. Christopher School's policy regarding pupil attendance and a pupil's ability to receive course credit (Refer to School Calendar

Regular attendance is a critical factor in school success for pupils.

Therefore, both pupils and their parents must view regular attendance as the most effective way of meeting course requirements. Course credit is awarded based on satisfactory completion of course requirements. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school administration of an attendance concern.

- Description of:
  - incentives to be used to encourage pupils to attend school
  - disciplinary sanctions to be used to discourage unexcused absences, tardiness and early departures

St. Christopher School will identify those incentives and sanctions that will promote regular attendance.

Incentives	Sanctions
Parents of students who are absent or late for ten days of school within a semester will be invited for a conference with the school administration.  The school has established a policy to recognize <u>perfect</u> attendance.	The absence/tardiness could preclude participation in extra-curricular activities on that day.  A parent/student conference would be required.  Any student who is tardy more than three times in a month in Grades 6-8 will receive a demerit; they will receive a lunchtime detention in Grades K-5.

- Description of the notice to be provided to the parents of a pupil who is absent, tardy or leaves school early without an acceptable excuse

- Parents of a pupil who is absent, tardy, or leaves school early without an acceptable excuse will receive verbal notification from the attendance office.

- Description of the process the schools of the Diocese of Rockville Centre will use to develop specific intervention strategies to address attendance problems

When a child has been absent, the school must require a written excuse from a parent. These notes must be kept on file for one year. If a pupil is absent without an excuse, or if the school has reason to suspect the validity of the excuse, the principal should investigate the situation.

- It is the responsibility of the teacher to make the parents and administration aware of any attendance problems
- After ten days, parents will be asked to come in for a conference to address attendance concerns.
- If necessary an outside agency/proper authority will be notified.
- Identification of the person(s) designated in each school building who will be responsible for:
  - reviewing attendance records
  - initiating appropriate action to address unexcused pupil attendance according to the comprehensive attendance policy
- The principal has full charge of the internal administration of the school.
- The principal may designate a school administrator or teacher to assist with implementation of the comprehensive school attendance policy. Such designee will be identified for the beginning of the school year.
- The principal and/or designee will review attendance data to look for patterns of unexcused absences and will initiate interventions to reduce such unexcused absences.
- The Nurse is the one responsible to identify and follow up on attendance concerns.