

GUIDANCE 'GO 2'

Types of school attendance Problems

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School Refusal

- A reluctance or refusal to attend school in combination with emotional distress
- Student does not try to hide absence
- Does not display negative peer relationships or behaviour
- Parents have made reasonable efforts to get the child to school

School Withdrawal

- Absence from school, due to late arrivals, missing whole school days, weeks, months, or even years, with parental knowledge/ consent
- Reduced parental support in actively getting the young person to school or actively keeping their child home.

Truancy

- The young person is absent from school for the whole or part of the day
- Absence occurs without permission and the young person typically tries to conceal the absence from their parents

Contributing factors- Student, Family, School

Student

- Mental illness
- Social difficulties
- Personality type
- Physical illness/injury
- Trauma
- Low self-confidence
- Neurodiversity- ADHD &/or Autism
- Reduced future thinking

Family

- Parental separation
- High level of family stress
- Substance misuse
- Domestic violence
- Parenting style
- Homelessness/couch surfing
- Loss, bereavement, grief
- Parental health issues



School

- Bullying
- Peer/staff relationship difficulties
- Learning difficulties
- Feeling unsafe
- Transitions/change of school
- Academic pressure or stress
- Transport



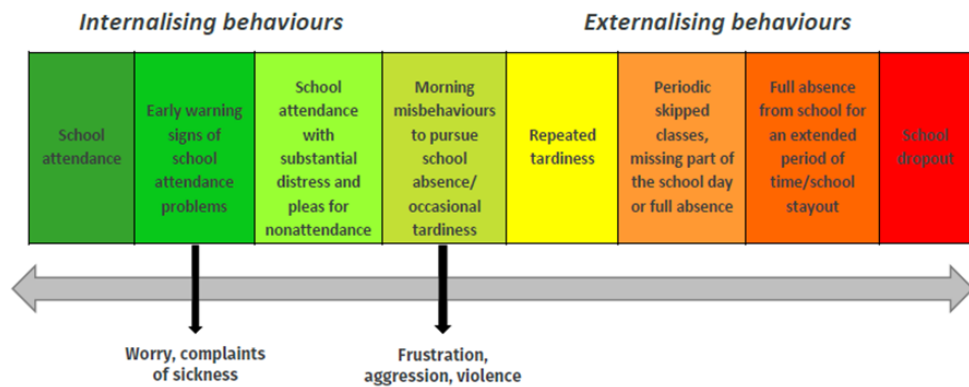
Early warning signs

At School

- Unexplained absences, arriving late or leaving school early
- Absent for tests, speeches, PE classes or other pattern of absence
- Learning difficulties
- Decreased participation in class
- Frequent visits to the sick bay or the wellbeing office
- Frequent requests to go home early
- Excessive worry about a parent when

At Home

- Struggles to get out of bed, leave the house or get out of the car
- Complaints of feeling sick before school
- Tearfulness, clinginess and dawdling before school
- Difficulty separating from caregivers
- Difficulty attending school after week-ends or holidays
- Panic symptoms, threats of self-harm
- Isolating behaviours at home
- Disrupted sleep cycle; over sleeping or not getting enough sleep
- Excessive screen time eg: gaming,



Sourced from the Department of Education and Ed LINQ join initiative 2024