

What Can You Do?

- Talk to your school about the difficulties your family is facing and how the school can help.
- Make education important in your family. Let your child know it is important to attend school every day even though you are facing real challenges to do so.
- If it is difficult for families experiencing homelessness to travel to school, help your child to be especially proud of good attendance in the face of these difficulties.
- Be alert to reasons why your child may not want to go to school. If there are difficulties in school or a child is finding school work hard, talk to the school right away.
- Ask your school about any practical supports, homework clubs or academic supports available in the school or locally.
- If your child's school has a Home School Liaison Coordinator or School Completion Programme, talk to the staff and ask about any supports they may be able to offer you.
- It is good to be on time for school and to attend for a full day but it is better to be late and attend, than to miss the whole day.

Contact details for your local Educational Welfare Office:

If you contact the office nearest to the area you live, you will be given advice and / or put in contact with your local EWO.

North Dublin / North Leinster Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan Dublin North	(01) 7718815
South Dublin and environs Kildare, Wicklow (West) Dublin South	(01) 7718633
South / South-East Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow (East)	(021) 2428611
West / North-West Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois	(091) 385302
Tusla Head Office	(01) 7718500

School Attendance Information for Families Experiencing Homelessness



School offers stability and routine for children but we know that ensuring your child goes to school every day can become a challenge when you are facing homelessness.

The job of Tusla Educational Welfare Service is to support families and make sure that every child receives an education, as required by law. During this difficult time, Tusla Educational Welfare Service can help support your child by working with you and your school to maintain regular school attendance.

Why Should Your Child Attend School?

- Every child between six and 16 must receive an education.
- A good education, combined with your loving care and encouragement, will give your child a great start in life.
- For children experiencing homelessness, school provides much needed stability and can be the most constant factor in their life where they get to feel “like every body else”.
- Missing out on days in school means missing out on valuable learning opportunities.
- In school, children get a chance to develop confidence, resilience and skills. They make friends, receive praise and encouragement, achieve success and earn qualifications.

What You Must Do if Your Child Cannot be at School

You must tell the school that your child could not attend and say why. If there are good reasons for a child not being at school, these will be taken into account when explained to the school.

Role of the Educational Welfare Officer

If a school tells us that your child is missing too much school, an Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) may contact you to see how we can help ensure your child attends more often. If homelessness is affecting your child’s attendance, it is important to inform the EWO of this. The role of the EWO is also to advise and assist with regard to school enrolment, suspensions and expulsions. If your child has no school place, you can contact the Educational Welfare Service for advice and support on applying for school places.

Information provided to an EWO is treated in confidence.

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency