



THE GRAMMAR
JUNIOR SCHOOL



Student Absences Policy

POLICY APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 2025

NEXT REVIEW DATE: JUNE 2026

PERSON IN CHARGE: MRS ANNA KONI

STUDENTS' SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Dear parents/guardians,

We would like to inform you about your obligations concerning your child's school attendance.

According to the 2008 to 2020 regulations concerning the Functioning of Public Primary Education Schools in Cyprus:

Every absence from school must be justified in writing by the parent or guardian explaining the reasons to the satisfaction of the headteacher:

- (a) For health-related absences exceeding five days a doctor's certificate should be submitted to the school, unless the headteacher finds other justification satisfactory.*
- (b) For absences exceeding six consecutive days without a reason which can be accepted by the headteacher as justifying the absence, the headteacher is required to immediately inform the Director of Primary Education via the school inspector. The information which needs to be communicated to the Director of Primary Education includes the child's full name, his/her class, date of birth, number of completed years s/he has attended school, the date the child stopped attending school, the parent/guardian's full name, details concerning any past violation of the law regarding compulsory education and possible reasons for exempting the parent/guardian from this law. The child's name should continue to be written in the Class Register and next to his/her name the number and period of absences should be recorded.*

In addition, according to the Primary and Secondary Education (Compulsory Attendance and Free Education) Laws of 1993 until 2022:

"3. -(1) Attendance of Compulsory Pre-primary Education, Primary and Lower Secondary School (Gymnasium) is compulsory until the student completes Lower Secondary Education (Gymnasium) or until the age of 15, whichever occurs first:

It should be noted that "compulsory pre-primary education" means the children's compulsory attendance in kindergarten, which includes the pre-primary class."
and

"4. Anyone who has custody of the student and fails to register him/her at school or fails to ensure and monitor the student's attendance as defined in Article 3, commits an offense punishable by imprisonment of up to three months or a fine not exceeding €1.000 or both such penalties".

According to the relevant legislation, if a student attending Compulsory Pre-primary Education (4^{8/12} years old and above), Primary or Special School is absent for more than six consecutive days or is absent for fewer days each time but on a regular basis, **without a satisfactory excuse**, the School Management has instructions from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth to immediately inform the local District Education Office submitting a detailed report which includes the student's and the parent/guardian's personal details as well as any other important information about the student and his/her family that may be of any assistance. It is important to note that in all cases of unjustified absences, the District Education Offices will inform the Police or the Social Welfare Services, who will take further action to ensure the children's right to education.

Taking into account all the above, you are asked to ensure the following:

- (a) Children should arrive at school promptly, before the bell rings. Timely arrival at the school develops responsible students which is a pedagogical aim. Student's supervision by the teaching staff begins at 7:45 a.m.
- (b) If your child arrives late to school, you should inform the secretary/School Management, by phone at this number: 22695695
- (c) If your child will be absent for the duration of the entire day or for a few days, you are required to promptly inform the secretary/School Management in person by phone or in writing by completing, signing, and sending a "Student's Absence Slip" by email to marilena.assou@thegrammarschool.net. For health-related absences exceeding five continuous days, a medical certificate is required.
- (d) If your child needs to leave school, before the end of the school day, or needs to be absent for a number of teaching periods, you should inform the secretary/School Management, in person by completing and signing a "Student's Leave Permit" which will be provided to you by the school. No child may leave the school premises without previously informing the school and obtaining the relevant permission.

Communication between the school and parents/guardians concerning the issue of student attendance is imperative to ensure the best interests of the children and avoid unpleasant situations, where students may be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge.

For your convenience, a "**Student's Absence Slip**" is attached. You must send this to school by email or have it delivered by hand on the actual day of the absence, the day preceding or the day immediately following the child's absence.

A "**Student's Leave Permit**" is also attached. This must be completed on the school premises by you or the authorised adult who will collect the child.

A "**Student's Late Arrival Slip**" is also attached. This must be completed if the student arrives at school after the lessons begin. It must be completed by you or the person you authorize to deliver the child to the school.

The School Management and the teaching staff are at your disposal for any enquiries or further information you may require.