

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board
Dundrum College of Further Education College
Attendance and Engagement Policy Further Education Colleges

1. ETHOS

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) is committed to providing a supportive environment to enable all learners to achieve their full potential. DDLETB recognises learners are responsible for their own attendance and are encouraged to develop self-discipline and take personal responsibility in order to achieve success on their chosen course.

Experience shows learners who actively participate in their learning by attending all classes are more likely to:

- Develop the knowledge, skills and competencies required to successfully complete the course
- Effectively manage on-going assessment requirements
- Foster a strong sense of class participation and active engagement in college activities.

Dundrum College of Further Education, as a constituent College of DDLETB, is required to maintain attendance records and these will be forwarded to funding and other relevant government agencies as requested.

For the purpose of this policy, punctuality is considered implicit in the term attendance.

2. GUIDELINES

Dundrum College of Further Education, as a constituent College of DDLETB, is committed to:

- 2.1 informing learners of attendance requirements and consequences of unsatisfactory attendance
- 2.2 operating an attendance management system
- 2.3 implementing attendance procedures in a fair and consistent manner
- 2.4 supporting learners who are experiencing difficulties or unforeseen circumstances
- 2.5 providing attendance records as may be required by SUSI (grant awarding body), the Department of Social Protection (DSP) and relevant Government Departments
- 2.6 applying appropriate sanctions for unsatisfactory attendance
- 2.7 notifying the learner in writing of the sanctions applied. Decisions made with respect to learners under the age of 18, will also be communicated to parents/guardians.

3. DEFINITION OF ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Dundrum College of Further Education courses are delivered in person. Course content may be provided via online learning platforms to supplement learning.

Attendance and engagement is defined as:

- Attending classes and other learning activities, for example, trainings, talks, field trips etc
- Contributing to class discussions and group work
- Submitting assessments and course work as per deadlines
- Attending exams and/or skills demonstrations as per schedule
- Responding in a timely manner to communication from the College

Holidays should not be booked during term time and learners should endeavour to make personal appointments outside of timetabled classes. Learners should give prior notification of foreseen absences to their Programme Lead.

Dundrum College of Further Education understands that learners may face certain challenges which impact on their attendance/engagement. The College will work with learners, endeavouring to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

4. PROCEDURES

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

Learners are expected and encouraged to attend every subject on their timetable, regularly and punctually, unless a subject exemption has been granted based on a previous qualification. When learners are absent, they miss vital explanations, demonstrations and collaborative activities that enhance understanding and as a result, their learning suffers. Learner absenteeism is also disruptive to teachers and to other learners who regularly attend.

Students are required to contact their Programme Lead using their **@dcfe.ie email** address to advise of any absence of 3 or more consecutive days.

Students who have been absent for 15 or more consecutive college days, without notifying the College, will be contacted by their Programme Lead to establish if they have left the course and to provide advice and support students.

Record Keeping

Attendance for each class is recorded electronically on VSware. A record will be kept of communication with learners in relation to their attendance/engagement.

Implications of and Sanctions for Unsatisfactory Attendance for Students

Unsatisfactory attendance **may** impact on:

- Ability to successfully complete assessments and achieve certification
- Access to 365, Moodle and other online resources
- Participation in field trips and other learning activities
- Participation in European Erasmus+ opportunities
- Attendance at Examinations
- Receipt of VTOS and SUSI PLC grant payments

Students who do not engage with the College in relation to their non-attendance may be removed from the register.

Students will be advised of the implication/sanction by email to their **DCFE email address**.

5. APPEALS

Dundrum College of Further Education, as a constituent College of DDLETB, recognises the right of learners to appeal sanctions in relation to attendance, and commits to address every appeal in a timely, fair and consistent manner.

Procedures to Appeal

5.1 Appeals must be lodged in writing to the Principal within 5 working days on receipt of the sanctions letter.

5.2 The Principal will establish an Appeals Panel to meet with the learner within 5 working days of the appeal being received. The Panel may be comprised of suitable members of staff such as Principal/Deputy Principal/Programme Lead/Module Teacher. At least one member of the panel will be independent of the sanction process.

5.3 The learner may be accompanied by another individual. Learners under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.

5.4 The Principal will inform the Learner/Parent/Guardian of the decision of the Appeals Panel within three working days. Parents/Guardians will be notified in respect of decisions made to learners under 18 years of age.