

Tackling school absenteeism and preventing dropping out of school in Turku at the primary level (from autumn 2020 onwards)

Social services' support measures and prevention of dropping out of school

The school's support measures and prevention of dropping out of school

Prevention of absenteeism

absent over 70 h

absent over 30 h

absent over 50 h

absent from school

Prevention

1. The school staff understand that collective pupil welfare services concern all who belong to the personnel
2. Care should be taken to ensure that school practices support dedication to the school and well-being
3. **Teachers are to monitor attendance and always keep a record of absences** (Obligation, Basic Educ. Act, section 26)

Address the matter

1. **The teacher must take the matter of unexplained absence up with the pupil and parents/guardians immediately after noting it**
2. The teacher must consult with the pupil welfare services (public health nurse, curator or psychologist) regarding the absences
3. The teacher must consider convening a multidisciplinary expert group meeting
4. Preparation of a child protection notice must be considered in accordance with the situation and need.
5. **The distribution of work must be agreed at the school**

Clarification of reasons for absence and launch of support measures

1. **A multidisciplinary expert group meeting must be convened at the latest during this stage** unless convening the group is evidently unnecessary due to the reasons for absence
2. The reasons for the absences must be determined together on a multidisciplinary basis
 - if required, a general *absence from school questionnaire* should be utilised
 - health-related (somatic and psychological symptoms-based) reasons: school health care
 - reasons connected with behaviour: school administrator
 - reasons connected with learning and psychological symptoms: psychologist
3. **The school's support measures must be launched**

Make sure the school's support measures are in good shape and gather up the school's external actors

1. **The school's support measures must be reviewed**
2. Making contact or preparing a child protection notice in accordance with the Social Welfare Act must be considered if the reasons for absence are unclear/variable
3. **Social Work Services for families with children** can be consulted as required, even if the family does not have a client relationship in social work or child protection services
4. **Family Social Work or Child Protection Services** can be contacted from the school together with the family (or find out the employee's name from the family) if the family has a client relationship there and the need to increase co-operation
5. **The persons in charge are to be agreed at the school and in Social Services as well as follow-up**

Make sure the school's support measures and those of the school's external actors are in good shape

1. **The school's support measures must be reviewed**
2. Making contact in accordance with the Social Welfare Act must be done, or the preparation of a child protection notice must be considered if the reasons for absence are unclear/variable
3. **The persons in charge are to be agreed as well as follow-up**

