

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION & THE STANDARDISED SCHOOL YEAR

Holydays of Obligation, which are days of special worship and celebration, are a valuable expression of the ethos of a Catholic school. All Catholic schools should, in so far as is possible, observe Holydays of Obligation.

The two Holydays of Obligation which are relevant to schools for 8th December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Tuesday, 6th January, Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.

All other Holydays of Obligation fall on weekends or during the standardised holiday closures. The decision as to whether or not a school remains closed on these Holydays of Obligation rests with the Board of Management in consultation with the Trustees/Patron of the school and in co-operation with the Boards of Management of other schools in the area. Should a Catholic school decide to open for the instruction of pupils on Holydays of Obligation, the school community is encouraged to attend Mass within the school day.

Please see dates for the current year:

<https://www.education.ie/en/schools-colleges/information/school-holidays/>

Schools at primary level are required to be open for tuition for a minimum of 183 days. Boards of Management are referred to Circular 0009/2017- Standardisation of the School Year in respect of Primary & Post Primary Schools for the years 2019/20, which is available to members at www.cpsma.ie.