GUIDELINES FOR EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL

General Principles

It is the duty of the State to ensure that every child receives an education of the highest quality and it is the duty of parents to comply with the compulsory education requirements of the Education Act 1990.

Applications for exemption from school attendance must be made in writing. In exceptional circumstances, an oral request can be made to the school principal, seeking assistance on completing an application for exemption from school attendance.

In the case of students of compulsory school age who are enrolled in a school, applications in advance for a student to be absent from school must be considered as applications for exemption from school attendance.

Under Section 25 of the Education Act 1990, the Minister may grant a Certificate of Exemption. This power is delegated, subject to these Guidelines, to:

- **Regional Directors**, in relation to granting of an exemption from school attendance totalling more than 100 days in a twelve month period
- **School Education Directors**, in relation to granting of an exemption from school attendance totalling up to 100 days in a twelve month period
- **Principals**, in relation to granting of an exemption from school attendance for periods totalling up to 50 days in a 12 month period for any one student.

Reasons for Granting Full Day Exemptions from Attendance at School

Principals, School Education Directors and Regional Directors may grant exemptions due to:

- exceptional domestic circumstances, including but not limited to participation in family holidays during school term subject to being satisfied that this is in the best educational interests of the child
- other exceptional circumstances such as health of the student where sick leave or alternative enrolment is not appropriate.