



St. Mary's N.S. Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	St. Mary's N.S.				
Address	Waterpark, Carrigaline, Co Cork				
Roll Number	18279A				
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>It is the aim of all stakeholders in St. Mary's that all pupils have full attendance at school. To this end St. Mary's aims to be a safe, caring & stimulating place of education for all.</p> <p>The School motto, Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí - Praise the youth and they will flourish, is a core philosophy for the school. St. Mary's N.S. is a community where pupils experience a sense of caring and belonging in a positive nurturing atmosphere where respect for each other is of paramount importance.</p> <p>Regular attendance helps to create a stable learning environment for all pupils, and the school hopes to promote cooperation among pupils, parents/guardians and staff in maintaining a high level of regular attendance throughout the school year.</p> <p>The aims of this strategy are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise awareness of the importance of regular school attendance 2. To promote and foster positive attitudes to learning 3. To ensure compliance with the requirements of relevant legislation 				
The school's high expectations around attendance	<p>As attendance is crucial to effective learning and the continuity of learning experiences, the school places great emphasis on regular attendance in communications with parents and pupils. Accordingly, the Board of Management wishes to promote and encourage regular attendance as an essential factor in our pupils' learning.</p> <p>Pupils are expected to have full attendance unless they are ill, incapacitated or have medical appointments. However, we understand that there may also be urgent family reasons why a child cannot attend school.</p>				
How attendance will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class teachers record attendance daily on Aladdin and attendance is monitored centrally on Aladdin. • The Principal, Deputy Principal and Special Duties Teacher regularly review attendance matters. • Statistical returns are forwarded to Tusla as required 				
Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:	<p>Targets</p> <p>Total number of days lost through student absence in the entire school year</p> <table style="margin-left: 100px;"> <tr> <td>21/22</td> <td>3,760</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22/23</td> <td>3,101</td> </tr> </table>	21/22	3,760	22/23	3,101
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting and targets 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consults with parents where there are concerns around attendance or where parents have not provided explanations regarding absences. • Makes Principal/Deputy Principal aware of concerns with regard to the attendance of individual children, specifically when a pupil's absences approach or exceed 20 days. • Collaborating in the planning and implementation of the primary school curriculum, so as to provide a stimulating learning environment for all pupils. • Is aware of the individual needs of each pupil & as much as is practicable differentiates tasks to allow for full engagement for all. <p>The Principal/Deputy Principal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly promotes good attendance at Parents' Association meetings, annual parent-teacher meetings and information evenings with new parents • Keeps in regular contact with parents where attendance is a concern. • Follows up on any issues regarding attendance. • Advises parents of the importance of regular school attendance • Is vigilant so that risks to good attendance are identified early for individual children. • Identifies in collaboration with SET & Class teachers pupils who are in need of additional supports around school attendance. • Organises subject to resources available that such supports are put in place. • Updates the Board of Management about attendance in the school. • Monitors the electronic version of the 'Leabhar Tinrimh Laethuil' • Ensures the statistical returns are made to Tusla as required. • Makes referrals to Tusla when deemed necessary <p>Board of Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the responsibility of the Principal and staff to implement this strategy under the guidance and authority of the school's Board of Management. • The Board works to provide and support a positive, welcoming environment by maintaining and resourcing the school to a high standard, which in turn promotes good attendance
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	<p>Parents/Guardians:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that children are in school every day, as far as possible. • It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that children are on time for school. • When children are absent/late for school, parents should provide an app notification/email/written note to the school with an explanation for that absence/lateness for school records <p>Parents/Guardians can promote good school attendance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring regular and punctual school attendance • Notifying the school if their children cannot attend for any reason.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure that children understand the importance of good attendance. • <i>Refraining, if at all possible, from taking holidays during school time</i> • Refraining from removing pupils early from school except in cases of emergency or unavoidable medical appointments. • Showing an interest in their children’s school day and their children’s homework. • Encouraging their children to participate in school activities • Praising and encouraging their children’s achievements. • Instilling in their children a positive self-concept and a positive sense of self-worth. • Ensuring, in so far as is possible, that their children’s appointments (with dentists etc.) are arranged for times outside of school hours. • Contacting the school immediately if they have concerns about absence or other school-related matters. • Working with the school and education welfare service to resolve any attendance issues
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of attendance records and patterns. • Review of attendance targets. • Success of implementation of attendance strategies • Communication with class teachers • Communication with parents • Communication with B.O.M. • Communication with pupils
Review process and date for review	Strategy to be reviewed when necessary
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	