

Template for the Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Scoil Íde
Address	Ardnamara, Salthill, Galway
Roll Number	18634R
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>In Scoil Íde we are committed to nurturing the full potential of all who work and learn in our school community...in a positive, inclusive, safe and happy environment". In Scoil Íde we believe that children can only learn effectively if they attend school regularly. It is important too, that children arrive to and leave school on time. It is equally important that children should not be in school if they are unwell. Scoil Íde is a happy school. Children learn best when they are happy and relaxed. All school personnel are expected to show appropriate concern for each child's welfare and wellbeing.</p> <p>Relationship to the characteristic spirit of the school: To create a pleasant and orderly environment in which children feel happy and secure, in which their self-esteem is fostered, in which children make progress at their school work and where the uniqueness of each child is recognised and valued. To provide a general, balanced education dedicated to the development of the whole child so as to prepare him/her for the demands of further education and the rapidly changing society in which we live.</p> <p>Aims of this Statement of Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise awareness of the importance of regular school attendance 2. To promote and to foster positive attitudes to learning 3. To ensure compliance with the requirements of relevant legislation
The school's high expectations around attendance	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. The Board of Management wishes to promote and encourage regular attendance as an essential factor in our pupils' learning. We expect children to have full attendance at school unless they are ill,

	incapacitated or have medical appointments. We understand that there may also be urgent family reasons why a child cannot attend school, especially in the case of bereavements.
How attendance will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each class teacher records attendance daily on Aladdin and attendance is monitored centrally on Aladdin. - The Principal regularly reviews attendance issues
<p>Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting and targets • The whole-school approach • Promoting good attendance • Responding to poor attendance 	<p>Our annual attendance in the school year 2016/2017 was 95.2% In 2017/2018 it was 94.7% In 2018/2019 it was 95.2% In 2019/2020 it was 95.5% (of the time spent in school as there was a school closure due to Covid) In 2020/2021 it was 91.2% (of the time spent in school as there was a school closure due to Covid)</p> <p>We would like to maintain our attendance at least at this high level for the year 2021/2022 (even bearing in mind that children are staying at home when showing any symptoms of Covid).</p> <p>We would like to raise awareness among all members of the school community about school days lost due to holidaying during term time.</p> <p>Promoting Good Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with full attendance and near perfect attendance (up to five days) for a school year will be presented with a certificate <p>Responding to poor attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal will keep in regular contact with parents where there is a concern regarding attendance. • An automated text will issue on a day when a child is absent requesting an explanation for any unexplained absence. • Parents will receive an automated text from the school once a child has missed 20 days. The school is also obliged to advise TUSLA when a child misses 20 days from school or where there is any concern on the part of the school regarding children's absences. • Parents will receive an automated text from

	<p>the school when their child reaches 15 days of absence to alert them to the fact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents may be invited to a meeting with the class teacher/Principal to discuss concerns re attendance. • If deemed necessary, contact will be made with the Education Welfare Officer in accordance with the Education Welfare Act.
School roles in relation to attendance	<p>Each class teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages and commends good attendance. • Implements any whole school plan to promote good attendance. • Provides a busy and stimulating classroom where the students feel valued. • Calls the roll electronically on a daily basis, using the Aladdin data system. • Collects any notes/medical certs regarding absence. • Notes any queries or concerns re absence. • Records individual patterns of attendance. • Consults with parents where there are concerns around attendance or where parents have not provided explanations regarding absences. • Makes Principal aware of concerns with regard to the attendance of individual children, specifically when a pupil's absences approaches or exceeds 20 days. <p>The Principal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes good attendance at school assemblies, meetings with parents, end of year events. • Updates the BOM about attendance in the school • Ensures that the electronic version of the 'Leabhar Tinrimh Laethúil' (Daily Attendance Book – records summary information in relation to daily, monthly and annual attendance of pupils) is filled, printed and filed on a monthly basis. • Keeps in regular contact with parents where attendance is a concern. • Follows up on any issues regarding attendance. • Makes the twice yearly statistical return to Tusla. • Makes referrals to Tusla when deemed necessary. • Promotes initiatives such as the 'Every School

	<p>Day Counts' competition which the children participated in two years ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises parents of the importance of regular school attendance by means of reminders in school newsletters. <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.
<p>Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)</p>	<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 from school/late for school, parents should provide a note/email 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 • 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. • Informing the school in writing of the reasons for absence from school. • Ensuring, insofar as is possible, that their children's appointments (with dentists etc.), are arranged for time outside of school hours.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacting the school immediately if they have concerns about absence or other school-related matters. • Notifying the school, in writing, if their children, are to be collected by someone not known to the teacher. This applies particularly to children in junior classes. • Working with the school and TUSLA 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 BOM. • Communication with pupils.
Review process and date for review	Strategy to be reviewed by Staff and Board of Management annually.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	