

Statement of Strategy for

Pupil Attendance



Scoil na mBráithre

Tiobraid Árann - 17276M

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***RATIONALE:***

*This statement was prepared in consultation with the Partners in our School Community in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in* ***Scoil na mBráithre*** *to foster an appreciation of learning among pupils and encourage regular attendance at school. It was completed in September 2017.*

***REWARDING OF STUDENTS WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE:***

Targeting good attendance is part of our school action policy. Students with good attendance may be rewarded in the following ways:-

* Presenting Certificates to pupils who have full attendance at the end of each term.
* Presenting Certificates to pupils who have almost full attendance at the end of each term and who have produced notes of absence for time missed.

***STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING ATTENDANCE:***

The following strategies will be employed to improve attendance:-

* The school curriculum, insofar as is practicable, will be flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child.
* Scoil na mBráithre will promote development of good self-esteem and self-worth in its pupils (see Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy).
* The provision of Mindfulness and well-being programmes for all with particular attention to targeted pupils.
* Support for pupils who have special educational needs in accordance with DES guidelines.
* Attendance rates of pupils will be monitored by the class teacher in the first instance and the class teacher will notify the Principal teacher of any concerns regarding the attendance of any pupil.
* The school will use regular newsletters and web texts to promote attendance and punctuality.
* Where concerns arise, the class teacher or secretary monitoring attendance brings the concern to the attention of the Principal.
* The Principal and S.C.P. co-ordinator assess each case individually at this point and a home visit may be deemed necessary.
* The class teacher will encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually.
* The class teacher will ensure that contact is made with parents/guardians in instances where absences are not explained. A standard note is used for this purpose.
* The class teacher will keep a daily record of attendance in Aladdin.
* The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff.
* Attendance will be featured as part of The Principal’s regular communication with all parents.
* The Principal will inform the NEWB:
* When a pupil has been missing for twenty or more days during the course of the school year.
* When a pupil has been suspended from school more than once under the Code of Behaviour.
* The School Completion Programme operates to target pupils who are considered to be at risk of early school leaving.
* Extra-curricular activities such as Hurling, Gaelic Football, Soccer and Choir will be encouraged for all pupils, specifically those at risk of non-attendance.
* Participation in S.C.P. activities i.e. in-school, out of school and after school events will be encouraged in particular for targeted pupils.

***IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS WHO ARE AT RISK OF DEVELOPING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROPLEMS:***

* On transfer to Scoil na mBráithre, attendance records will be sought from previous schools, on pupil attendance. Discussions to take place with Principal of feeder school in accordance with custom and practice.
* Class teachers will inform the Principal of any concerns s/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil.
* Contact with various agencies who are involved with such students.
* Principal, Designated teacher and S. C.P. co-ordinator to act collaboratively in identifying students at risk based on relevant data compiled/presented.

***ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND HOME:***

Closer home/school relations will be fostered through:

* Parents’ association – encourage attendance of parents of targeted pupils
* Attendance at meetings (Parent/Teacher, etc).
* Parent Courses
* Attendance at Merit Awards.
* Attendance at Sports Day.
* Attendance at school events (eg Concerts, Masses, etc).
* Involvement in Paired Reading, Maths for Fun, etc.
* Regular newsletters to families.
* Open-door policy in Principal’s Office for daily communication
* Enhanced communication between home and school – homework journal,

text-a-parent.

* The importance of positive communication.

***FOSTERING CONTACTS***

Contact with the following bodies will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of students in Scoil na mBráithre:-

* NEWB
* Other schools in the vicinity.
* School Completion Programme
* NEPS
* Local GAA clubs, soccer clubs, Arravale Rovers, St. Michael’s AFC and Tipperary Town AFC
* Community ~Gardaí and JLO
* Local interest groups such as the Vincent de Paul
* Tipperary Regional Youth Service
* Knockanrawley Resource Centre
* Three Drives Community Centre
* Tipperary Local Education Stakeholders Network.

***ENCOURAGING FULL PARTICIIPATION OF STUDENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:***

In so far as is practicable, programmes will be developed with the bodies mentioned above which will encourage the full participation with students in the life of the school Examples of these are:-

* Attendance incentive scheme.
* Counselling (Rainbows, Behavioural, Bereavement, etc). Supported by S.C.P.
* Gaelic Games, Soccer and Rounders
* Easter and Summer Project Programmes
* Homework Clubs (internal and external)
* Participation in external Summer Camps e.g. G.A.A. Cúl Camps.

***IDENTIFICATION OF ASPECTS AND STRATEGIES:***

The Board of Management, teachers and whole school community will be mindful at all times of;-

* Provide a classroom climate and classroom management that support participation and engagement, especially with students who may be at risk of poor attendance.
* The identification of aspects of the operation and management of the school and of the teaching of the school curriculum that may contribute to problems relating to school attendance on the part of certain students.
* The identification of strategies for the removal of those aspects in so far as they are not necessary or expedient for the proper and effective running of the school having regard, in particular, to the educational needs of students.
* The identification of strategies that will encourage more regular attendance at school on the part of such students.
* The need to review this strategy into the future to accommodate the changing needs of the school and of its population

***REVIEW:***

The policy is due for review in 2019 / 2020

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Principal Chairperson, Board of Management