



St Patrick's National School, Drumcondra, D09XH2

Scoil Phadraig, Droim Conrach, Ath Cliath D09 XH52

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Charity number:20116453

Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Introduction

This strategy applies to the students, staff and parents of St. Patrick's National School and relates to all aspects of school attendance and punctuality. This strategy is drawn up in consultation with all the school partners, including the Board of Management, staff, parents and students, to assist school management and staff to monitor and improve pupils' attendance.

This strategy was implemented with reference to Section 22 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, Developing the Statement of Strategy for School attendance: Guidelines for Schools (TUSLA, 2015), and the National School Attendance Campaign 2023.

Relationship to school ethos

Good attendance is promoted in St Patrick's National School by a culture of high expectations, encouraging each student to take responsibility for his or her own learning and achieve full potential through regular presence in class. Without such a pattern of regular attendance, it is not possible for pupils to *develop to their fullest potential - academically, socially, emotionally, physically, morally, spiritually and aesthetically, enabling each child to grow in confidence to participate in the wider community.* (Mission Statement)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the school Attendance Policy.

Name of school	St. Patrick's National School
Address	Millbourne Ave, Drumcondra, Dublin 9
Roll Number	11525A

<p>The school's vision and values in relation to attendance</p>	<p>St. Patrick's National School sees education as a fundamental right of the child. Attending school makes releasing this right possible. We strive to ensure that each child in our care is enabled to access an education by attending school. We do this by fostering cooperation between pupils, parents and staff by creating a welcoming, inclusive environment for all children in our care.</p>
<p>The school's high expectations around attendance</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Patrick's National School has high expectations of the educational progress of all the children in our care. 2. We expect that children will attend school every day except where illness or exceptional circumstances are present. 3. We endorse the parents' role in ensuring a child attends school every day. We expect parents/guardians to play their part and will assist them in every way we can in this regard.
<p>How attendance will be monitored</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class teachers will record attendance daily on the 'Aladdin Schools' administration system. 2. Reasons for absences are recorded by the class teacher on the 'Aladdin Schools' system. 3. Any written notes regarding illness and absences are to be recorded on Aladdin, and filed by the Class Teacher in the pupil's file. 4. The school management will use the 'Aladdin Schools' administration system to track attendance. 5. Overall statistics on attendance are gathered through the 'Aladdin Schools' system with an online version of the Leabhar Tinrimh being maintained. 6. Monitoring will lead to actions as set out below.

<p>Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:</p> <p>Target setting and targets</p> <p>The whole-school approach</p> <p>Promoting good attendance</p> <p>Responding to poor attendance</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We aim to maintain the attendance rates in the school above 90%, this rate to be reviewed annually. 2. Attention is drawn at the start of Junior Infants, and at the start of each school year, through school and class newsletters, to the school's obligation to report to the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) following 20 days of absence. 3. When a child, aged 6 years or over, reaches 15 days absent (cumulative), their parent/guardian will receive a reminder/alert message through Aladdin. 4. When a child, aged 6 or over, reaches 20 days absent (cumulative) their parents will receive a message through Aladdin noting that the school is obliged to forward their details to the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB). A letter may also be sent outlining the importance of good attendance for the remainder of the school year. 5. The parents of children under 6, with cumulative absences over 20 days, will be engaged with and written to regarding the importance of school attendance. Where valid explanations are not present this will take place after 15 days. 6. Where attendance continues to be an issue for a child after written correspondence, a meeting will be arranged between the parent/guardian and the class teacher and principal. 7. Further steps such as engaging the Educational Welfare Officer may also be taken as necessary.
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The staff of St Patrick's National School is committed to providing a positive school atmosphere which is conducive to promoting good school attendance. We operate a tiered approach to promoting good attendance and punctuality.

Support for All

1. School policies, including our Attendance Policy and Code of Behaviour, are shared on our school website in order to set and communicate clear standards and expectations.
2. The school calendar is publicised to parents (via the school website and Aladdin Connect)
3. Wellbeing programmes are implemented through Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) to promote a positive and supportive school culture e.g. Friendship Week, Anti-Bullying programmes (e.g FUSE).
4. Student committees (e.g. Student Council, Green School Committee, Active Committee) empower pupils, promote pupil participation and encourage a pupil voice within the school.
5. Parental involvement in learning activities and school events helps to ensure that parents feel like valued members of the school community.
6. Enrichment activities (e.g. music, drama or sporting events, grandparents day, Credit Union Quiz, school tours, chess tournaments, Cumann na mBunscol and other sporting leagues etc encourage pupils to feel engaged in school life.
7. Enrichment activities, through the provision of after school clubs and activities – e.table tennis / homework club / science, sports teams.
8. Partnership arrangements with parents and local community groups:
St. Patrick's National School has extensive links with the community in Drumcondra

	<p>through organisations such as Na Fianna GAA, Homefarm FC, Dublin City Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance reminders highlight the importance of attendance among staff, parents, pupils, and school management and contribute to an ethos of continuous improvement.
<p>Support for Some Pupils identified with emerging patterns of absenteeism</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wellbeing programmes are implemented in either a whole-class or small group setting to support pupils who are experiencing social or emotional difficulties, e.g. Fun Friends/Friends for Life, Weaving Wellbeing, Zones of Regulation. 2. Some pupils may access additional support in school through the Continuum of Support model. 3. Class teachers will discuss attendance concerns with parents to offer support and suggest improvement targets. 4. School alert message is sent to parents after 15 days of absence, as a reminder. 5. School reminder/alert message is sent to parents after 20 days of absence, so that every effort can be made to ensure regular attendance going forward. 6. Develop incentives/rewards, as necessary

<p>Support for few Pupils identified with established patterns of absenteeism</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents/guardians will be invited to a meeting with the Principal / Deputy Principal to discuss attendance concerns and to gain an understanding of issues impacting on pupil's attendance. 2. A targeted Action Plan will be drawn up in collaboration with the pupil's parents using the Tusla Assessment Framework (see Appendix 1). This plan will include individual attendance targets, agreed responsibilities and actions, and a timeframe for review. 3. Develop incentives/rewards, as necessary 4. Establish partnership with key stakeholders, as necessary 5. Personal programme, through the Continuum of Support, as necessary 6. Review meetings will be scheduled to monitor attendance and to offer support to parents. 7. A referral may be submitted to the Education Welfare Officer and parents may be invited to Attendance Clinic meetings to monitor attendance and to ensure that targets for improvements are being met.
<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Patrick's National School recognises the importance of regular school attendance. Every member of our school community is involved in ensuring that pupils attend school on a regular basis. 2. All teaching staff are reminded on a regular basis of the importance of school attendance and the need to proactively monitor it. 3. The BOM has overall responsibility for monitoring attendance and for encouraging good school attendance. 4. The Principal/Deputy is responsible for monitoring and managing the day to day

	<p>practice in relation to attendance on behalf of the wider school community</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The Principal/Deputy is responsible for liaising with the NEWB and for formally contacting parents where concerns about attendance arise. 6. The class teachers, Principal and Secretary have responsibility for monitoring the recording of daily attendance in our school. 7. Class Teachers are responsible for recording daily attendance in their class and for collecting notes/reasons for absence. They should contact the Principal promptly if they have concerns regarding attendance. 8. Class Teachers maintain a positive relationship with the children in their class and with their families as a means to maintain high attendance rates. 9. Class Teachers promote attendance by providing a stimulating, rewarding education for all children in their class. 10. Class Teachers have a duty to inform the school management as early as possible of any welfare or attendance concerns that may arise.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Patrick's National School has a vibrant Parents' Association which has been consulted with regard to this statement of strategy. 2. St. Patrick's National School has extensive links with the community in Drumcondra through organisations such as Na Fianna GAA, Homefarm FC, local pre-schools, primary and post-primary schools, Dublin City Council, DCU and local businesses.

	Also, there is a strong partnership arrangement with the P.A, the parent body, the local community, 'friends of St. Pat's, local businesses etc, for the "The Halloween Fair"
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance rates will be monitored continuously during the year and reported to the BOM. 2. Targets regarding attendance will be examined termly to see if they are being met. 3. The Strategy will be reviewed annually at a BOM meeting.
Review process and date for review	The Statement of Strategy will be reviewed annually by the school management and the BOM in September.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	2016
Date the Statement of Strategy was reviewed by the Board of Management	March 2024
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	March 2024

Signed:

Anne Looney (Chairperson of the BOM)



Natasha Bassett (Principal)



Dated: 12/03/2024

Appendix 1 :

UNDERSTANDING NEEDS: ASSESSMENT Framework	
What is/are the identified problems?	
To what extent is the identified problem to do with:	<p>the student</p> <p>the family</p> <p>the school</p> <p>the community</p>
Summarise any supports or interventions already in place	
Baseline	
Create a baseline using the last 4 weeks (minimum) as the starting point	
Identify any patterns or trends of the presenting problem	
What do the following say about the problem?	<p>Pupil:</p> <p>Family:</p> <p>School:</p> <p>Other agencies if involved?</p>

What strengths can be built on?	for the student: for the family:
Who could support the family?	Other family members: Other agencies:
Analysis of information gathered	
Completed by: Date:	