



it of Strategy for School Attendance **Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa** **Ballymurn**

Name of school	Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa
Address	Ballymurn, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford Y21 PR60
Roll Number	05070W
Rationale	<p>Prior to the onset of Covid-19, the attendance rate has been >96% at Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa.</p> <p>We recognised that this is above average and had wished to, at the very least, maintain this high level of attendance.</p> <p>In the 2020/21 school year, attendance was 94.3%, with all Covid guidelines in place, and we enjoyed an outbreak free year.</p> <p>The emergence of new variants, as well as the isolation procedures, coupled with the resurgence of the spread of other viruses and illnesses amongst children has been really detrimental to our attendance rates during the current (2021/22) school year. Our attendance rate has plummeted to a current level of 88.1%.</p> <p>We hope, that towards the summer and into the next school year, incidence of the virus will decrease, and we can look forward to a period where illness is not such a significant factor in our attendance rates.</p>
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>It is the aim of all stakeholders at Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa that all pupils have full attendance at school.</p> <p>To this end Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa aims to be a safe, caring and stimulating place of education for all pupils.</p>
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. 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.</p>

<p>How attendance will be monitored</p>	<p>Attendance is monitored daily by the class teachers and school secretary. The Roll is checked at 10.20am each day. Attendances and absences are inputted into the Aladdin system daily.</p> <p>Notes/ Emails are requested from parents explaining why their child was absent from school. A letter informing parents that their child has been absent from school on 15 and then 20 occasions is sent by the Principal. Pupils who have been absent from school on 20 occasions are reported to TUSLA and parents.</p> <p>Quarterly and annual statistical returns are forwarded to Tusla every year.</p>
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<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>	<p><u>The school will ensure that:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of school attendance is promoted throughout the school. • Pupils are registered accurately and efficiently. • Pupil attendance is recorded daily. • Parents or guardians are contacted when reasons for absences are unknown or have not been communicated. • Pupil attendance and lateness is monitored by the class teacher and the Principal. <p><u>School attendance statistics are reported as appropriate to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TUSLA • The Education Welfare Officer • The Board of Management <p>Punctuality: School starts at 9.20am children are required to be on site by then. All pupils and teachers are expected to be on time. The school will contact parents/guardians in the event of pupils being consistently late.</p> <p>The Principal is obliged under The Act, to report children who are persistently late, to the Education Welfare Board. Guidance for Parents Section [(21) (9)] of the Act states that: “a pupil’s absence can only be authorised by the Principal when the child is involved in activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved”.</p> <p>The school principal cannot authorise a child’s absence for holidays during school time. However, it is essential that parents inform the school of such arrangements.</p> <p>Reasons for pupils’ absences must be communicated via the specified Google form, or in writing, by parents/guardians to the school and will be retained by the school.</p> <p>These notes will form a record which may be inspected by the Education Welfare Officer on a visit to the school. A record of the note remains in the homework diary.</p> <p><u>Parents/guardians can promote good school attendance by:</u></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensuring regular and punctual school attendance. ● Notifying the School if their children cannot attend for any reason. ● Working with the School and education welfare service to resolve any attendance problems ● Making sure their children understand that parents support and approve of school attendance; ● Discussing planned absences with the school. ● Refraining from taking holidays during school time ● Showing an interest in their children's school day and their children's homework. ● Encouraging them 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 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 related school matters. ● Notifying the school if their child/children, particularly children in junior classes, are to be collected by someone not known to the teacher. ● Ensuring, where possible, children know who will be collecting them <p>Parents/Guardians have the clear responsibility to ensure children attend school regularly and punctually. Parents/guardians should inform staff if there is a problem that may lead to their absence.</p> <p>Pupils are responsible for promptly passing on absence notes from parents to their class teacher. Pupils are responsible for passing school correspondence to their parents, on the specified days. Parents are responsible for checking correspondence.</p> <p><u>A strategy for promoting good school attendance</u></p> <p>The Board of Management is committed to providing a positive school atmosphere which is conducive to promoting</p>
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	<p>good school attendance. In this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school curriculum, insofar as is practicable, is flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child. • The school will promote development of good self-concept and self-worth in the children. • Support for pupils, who have special educational needs, are in place in accordance with Department of Education & Skills guidelines. • Internal communication procedures are in place to inform teachers of the special needs of pupils. • The assistance of the Education Welfare Officer will be utilised. • The attendance rates of pupils will be monitored by the class teacher in the first instance, and the class teacher will notify the Principal of any concerns regarding the attendance of any child. • Pupils with a poor attendance record will, insofar as is practicable, be supported in an effort to improve their attendance.
School roles in relation to attendance	<p>School Principal/ Deputy Principal</p> <p>The School Principal/Deputy Principal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the school register of pupils is maintained in accordance with regulations. • Inform the Education Welfare Officer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a pupil is not attending school regularly. ○ When a pupil has been absent for 20 or more days during the course of a school year. ○ If a pupil has been suspended for a period of six or more days. ○ When a pupil's name is removed from the school register. • Inform parents of a decision to contact the Education Welfare Officer of concerns regarding a pupil. • Insofar as is practicable, promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff <p><u>The class teacher will:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the school roll on Aladdin in accordance with

	<p>procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep a record of explained and unexplained absences. ● Encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually. ● Inform the Principal of concerns s/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil.
Partnership arrangements	The school has a Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club on site, run independently by a registered childcare provider, which supports parents in ensuring that their children have care before and after school available.
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	<p>Review Date: March 2022</p> <p>Next Review due: The Statement of Strategy will be reviewed when necessary or within three years. (2025-26)</p>
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	4 th October, 2017
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	5 th October, 2017 via email to attendancestrategies@tusla.ie

Signed Chairperson: Matthew Kelly

Matthew Kelly
Board of Management

Date: 24th March 2022