

Statement of Strategy for Pupil Attendance.

St Ronan's NS
Deansrath

2022/2023

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RATIONALE:

This statement was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents, Board of Management and Educational Welfare Officer in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in St Ronan's N.S. to foster an appreciation of learning among pupils and encourage regular attendance at school. It was updated in 2022/2023.

REWARDING OF STUDENTS WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE:

As a DEIS Band 1 school, targeting good attendance is part of our school action plan. 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.
- ✓ STAR Trip

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.
- ✓ St Ronan's N.S. will promote development of good self-esteem and self-worth in its pupils (*see Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy*).
- ✓ 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 Attendance Officer, who in turn

may notify the HSCL teacher of any concerns regarding the attendance of any pupil.

- ✓ Encourage pupils to continue to improve on morning punctuality.
- ✓ To continue to raise awareness among the parents, as well as the pupils as to the importance of good attendance.
- ✓ To maintain the current attendance rate, whilst endeavoring to increase it.
- ✓ To reduce the number of children coming into school late during the school day
- ✓ To reduce the number of children leaving the school early during the school day
- ✓ To reduce the high number of children getting off at 1.30pm on Friday afternoon.
- ✓ To track, monitor & follow up chronic attenders- deemed "At Risk".
- ✓ Arrange with EWO Eamonn O'Regan, to meet with parents of chronic attenders
- ✓ The school will use regular newsletters, web texts, school website and meeting with the incoming Junior Infants to talk to parents to promote attendance and punctuality.
- ✓ Where concerns arise, the class teacher or secretary monitoring attendance brings the concern to the attention of the principal, deputy and the HSCL.
- ✓ The principal and HSCL teacher 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 and record reason for absence, if known. If a pupil arrives late the class teacher will alter the Roll Book on Aladdin to reflect this, adding reason, if known.

- ✓ The care team will monitor at risk children
- ✓ Homework Journal: Spaces provide by publishers in journal, at schools request, to facilitate parents in recording / explaining absences.
- ✓ Sign out book at reception will record pupils getting off early. This will be recorded by secretary on Aladdin software. Parents will be contacted after 5 incidences of leaving school in early afternoon by HSCL teacher/ deputy principal.. Parents will also have to sign out pupil with reason at the reception.
- ✓ The second week back in school after Halloween break will be designated 'Attendance Week' with classroom activities and competitions planned to support this.
- ✓ Attendance Certificates for improved and unbroken attendance will be awarded three times annually, at Christmas Easter and summer, with the recipients' photographs being posted on the school website. Those pupils with full attendance but who get off early / come in late will not qualify for this prize.
- ✓ The importance of good school attendance will be reinforced regularly at our weekly assemblies
- ✓ Best class attendance rewarded on a termly basis, with a trip.
- ✓ Attendance figures are monitored daily by the Attendance Officer and HSCL on Aladdin as part of the Local School Completion programme.
- ✓ The Attendance Officer will also bring details of continued absences and patterns of absences to the attention of the class teachers, the HSCL and the Principal as necessary.
- ✓ The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff.
- ✓ Pupils who "sleep it in" are encouraged to come into school late – to have attendance changed and recorded as present.

- ✓ 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 regularly under the Code of Behaviour.

- ✓ The School Completion Programme operates to target pupils who are considered to be at risk of early school leaving.

- ✓ Evidence of non-attendance is a factor in including pupils in the various activities; running, soccer, art club, hill walking club, literacy club, maths club, choir, tin whistle club, “Rainbows”, etc.

- ✓ Extra-curricular activities, such as running, soccer, art club, hill walking club, literacy club, maths club choir, tin whistle club, “Rainbows” etc will be encouraged for all pupils, specifically those at risk of non-attendance.

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS WHO ARE AT RISK OF DEVELOPING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS:

The following strategies may be employed to identify students at risk of developing school attendance problems:

- ✓ On transfer to St Ronan's, attendance records will be sought from previous schools on pupil attendance.

- ✓ Class teachers will inform the HSCL/ Principal of any concerns s/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil.

- ✓ Contact with various agencies who are involved with such students. e.g. Sonas, SCP

ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND HOME:

Closer home/school relations will be fostered through:

- ✓ The HSCL teacher.
- ✓ Principal & Deputy Principal available for parents every day before school begins / after school finishes.
- ✓ Attendance at meetings (*Parent/Teacher, etc*).
- ✓ Parent and child groups (*through HSCL*).
- ✓ Parent Courses.
- ✓ Attendance at Merit Awards.
- ✓ Attendance at Sports Day.
- ✓ Attendance at school events (*Concerts, Masses, Graduation, Choir etc*).
- ✓ Involvement in Paired Reading, Maths for Fun, etc.
- ✓ Regular newsletters to families.
- ✓ Open-door policy in Principal's office for daily communication.
- ✓ Availability of teachers every morning.

FOSTERING CONTACTS:

Contact with the following bodies will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of students in St Ronan's N.S. :

- ✓ NEWB.
- ✓ Other schools in the vicinity.
- ✓ NEPS.
- ✓ Deansrath Parish.

- ✓ Local GAA clubs, soccer clubs, etc.
- ✓ Community Gardaí and JLO.
- ✓ Local interest groups such as the Vincent de Paul.
- ✓ South Dublin County Council community services.
- ✓ St Ronan's N.S. In-school and after school activities.
- ✓ Marathon Kids
- ✓ Accelerated Reader

ENCOURAGING FULL PARTICIPATION 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 (*Play therapy, behavioural, bereavement, etc*).
- ✓ Hillwalking and running.
- ✓ Summer project programmes.

IDENTIFICATION OF ASPECTS AND STRATEGIES:

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

- ✓ 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.

EVALUATION:

- Compare % to those of previous years
- Pupils opinions of strategies
- Statistics
- Views of parents
- Views of staff
- Views of pupils

REVIEW

The policy is due for review in the first term of 2025/ 2026.

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Mary FitzGerald Principal.

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Ann Higgins, Deputy Principal