

Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Scoil Náisiúnta an Droma

Roll No. 18322V

Name of school	Drom National School
Address	Drom, Templemore, Co. Tipperary. E41 PC86
Roll Number	18322V
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	Drom National School aspires to help students to develop academically, emotionally, spiritually, socially and physically. We consider that regular student attendance is fundamental to this. To this end, we aim to put in place supports and interventions to promote student engagement, participation and attendance.
The school's high expectations around attendance	In so far as possible, we aim to have full attendance from all students and reward same. Absenteeism is discouraged as it has a direct impact on students' learning.
How attendance will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Databiz and the Primary Online Database will be our primary resources for recording and monitoring attendance. ▪ The class teacher will record attendance electronically each day at 10am. ▪ The class teacher will record late arrivals and early leavers electronically to further promote optimum attendance. ▪ Parents / Guardians will be asked to communicate reasons for absences to the school in writing in the homework journal and these reasons will be recorded electronically. ▪ Class teachers will be vigilant to patterns of absenteeism and refer concerns to the principal. ▪ The Principal will be directly responsible for monitoring and promoting good attendance in school, for evaluating attendance statistics and for promoting positive planning and collaboration in improving attendance.
<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><u>Target Setting and Targets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance statistics for 2015 / 2016 indicate that 10% of our student population were absent for more than 20 days during the school year. We aim to reduce this by 1% in 2016 / 2017. ▪ The rate of absenteeism for 2015 / 2016 was 6%. We aim to reduce levels of absenteeism by 1% in 2016 / 2017. ▪ The target for each subsequent year will be set following an evaluation of the previous year's target at the first Board of Management meeting of the academic year. <p><u>The Whole-School Approach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Principal, in collaboration with the Board of Management and teaching staff will be responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The evaluation of attendance statistics (b) Setting annual targets for attendance

- (c) Developing action plans to improve attendance and reduce absenteeism
- (d) Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing action plans on an annual basis

- Attendance statistics will be discussed at a whole staff level at staff meetings. Areas of strength will be highlighted and concerns discussed. Teaching staff will be involved in promoting good attendance in their classrooms and at a whole school level.

Promoting Good Attendance

- Drom National School is committed to providing a learning environment that will foster all children's learning and encourage them to attend school regularly. Our aim is to provide a stimulating day, with clear guidelines and structures, so that children feel welcome and nurtured while attending school. We believe that our pupils will benefit from this education through regular attendance.
- The school's Code of Behaviour takes a positive approach to fostering good behaviour.
- Class teachers will endeavour to provide positive affirmation of attendance when the roll is being taken.
- The agenda for termly assembly will include the following:
 - (a) The importance of regular attendance will be promoted.
 - (b) Certificates and rewards will be awarded to those with full attendance.
- We promote good attendance through communication with parents / guardians as follows:
 - (a) Open night
 - (b) School Information Booklet
 - (c) Parent / Teacher Meetings
 - (d) Annual School Report
 - (e) School Website
 - (f) Publishing Calendar in hard copy and electronically on the school website in Term 3 of the previous academic year alongside providing clear guidelines in relation to the following:
 1. School opening times
 2. When parents should advise the school about absence
 3. The person to be informed
 4. The method to be used
 5. The time students are expected to be in class
 6. The time at which a student will be marked absent.
 7. Procedures if a student arrives late for school.
 8. Procedures if a student needs to leave school before the end of the school day.

Responding to Poor Attendance

- In accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000 we report all absences over 20 days at the end of each school quarter to Tusla's Education Welfare Service.
- Communications with parents / guardians and students will be made at the end of each quarter as follows:
 1. Absent for 10 days or more: A standard letter will be sent to parents / guardians reporting the number of days that the student has been absent

	<p>to date. It will also outline the parents' / guardians' legal duty to ensure that their child is attending school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him / her not to attend.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Absent for 15 days or more: A standard letter will be sent to parents / guardians inviting them to contact the school to discuss matters of non-attendance. 3. Absent for 20 days or more: Parents / guardians will be informed that the school has reported to Tusla's Education Welfare Service that their child was absent for 20 days or more during the school year.
School roles in relation to attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Principal has overall responsibility for attendance. ▪ The Board of Management and teaching staff provide support by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Evaluating attendance statistics (b) Setting annual targets for attendance (c) Developing action plans to improve attendance and reduce absenteeism. (d) Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing action plans on an annual basis.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	<p><u>Other Schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When the Principal of Drom National School receives notification that a child has been registered in another school, she will notify the Principal of the pupil's new school of any problems in relation to attendance at school and of such matters relating to the child's educational progress as she considers appropriate. This applies to pupils who transfer between primary schools and to pupils who transfer from primary to second-level education. <p><u>National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We work closely with the NEPS assigned school psychologist Ms. Irene Timmons in addressing concerns regarding attendance.
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	The Statement of Strategy will be monitored by the principal in collaboration with the Board of Management and teaching staff. The previous year's targets will be reviewed and targets will be set for the upcoming year.
Review process and date for review	The Statement of Strategy will be reviewed annually at the first staff and Board of Management meeting of each academic year.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	6 th June 2017
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	20 th June 2017