

# *Statement of Strategy for Pupil Attendance.*



*2017 / 2018*

*Gaelscoil Mhuscraí, An Bhlárna.*

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### **RATIONALE:**

This statement was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents, Board of Management in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in **Gaelscoil Mhuscraí** to foster an appreciation of learning among pupils and encourage regular attendance at school. It was updated in 2017/ 2018.

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

Targeting good attendance is part of our school action plan. Pupils with good attendance may be rewarded in the following ways:

- ✓ Presenting certificates to pupils who have full attendance at the end of each school year.
- ✓ Presenting certificates to pupils who have almost full attendance at the end of each year 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.
- ✓ **Gaelscoil Mhuscraí** 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 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 BOM.
- ✓ The principal and class teacher assess each case individually at this point.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Attendance figures are monitored daily by the secretary.
- ✓ The secretary will also bring details of continued absences and patterns of absences to the attention of the class teachers and the Principal as necessary.
- ✓ The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff.
- ✓ Attendance will be featured as part of monthly school assemblies.
- ✓ 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.
  
- ✓ Evidence of non-attendance is a factor in including pupils in the various activities; football, hurling, French, speech & drama, music, club ceoil...etc.
- ✓ Extra-curricular activities 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 **Gaelscoil Mhuscraí**, attendance records will be sought from previous schools on pupil attendance.
- ✓ 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 pupils.

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

Closer home/school relations will be fostered through:

- ✓ The class teacher.
- ✓ Parents' Association in 2017/ 2018.
- ✓ Attendance at meetings (Parent/Teacher, etc).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Daily communication
- ✓ Availability of teachers on yard at assembly time in hall every morning.

### **FOSTERING CONTACTS:**

Contact with the following bodies will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of students in **Gaelscoil Mhuscraí:**

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

Local GAA clubs, soccer clubs, etc.

### **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 (where necessary etc).
- ✓ Gaelic Games and soccer.

**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.

**REVIEW**

The policy is due for review in 2018/2019.

Príomhoide: Cáit Ní Shiúrtáin

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Cathaoirleach: Joe Mac Ionnrachtaigh

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