



Attendance Strategy

Name of school	SN Muire na hÉireann
Address	Caherdavin, Limerick
Roll Number	19332G
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	Inspired by the Salesian way of Educating we aim to create a happy, caring, learning environment. Good attendance is the cornerstone of our school and all we do. We aim to create an environment that is supportive and caring. Children will feel safe and welcome and will be supported by the school in striving to achieve full attendance.
The school's high expectations around attendance	We aim to build a culture of high expectations among all staff and with every student for the students learning participation and attendance. We expect that all pupils attend school each day.
How attendance will be monitored	<p>Attendance will be monitored by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class teachers daily on Aladdin. • Daily monitoring by AP1 & HSCL • End of term attendance records • End of year attendance records <p>Text alerts will be set to parents to notify them when their daughter has been absent for 10, 15 & 20 days</p> <p>If a pupil misses 15 days during the course of the school year her parents will be written to and advised of the number of absences and that if the child reaches 20 days absences this will be reported to Tusla in accordance with the Education Welfare Act.</p> <p>If a pupil misses 20 days the parents are advised of this by letter and also advised that this will now have to be reported to TUSLA in accordance with the Education Welfare Act.</p>



Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:

- Target setting and targets

Targets

- To increase the percentage number of children attaining excellent attendance (0,1,2,3 days absent) from 9% to 11% over three years.
- To develop a pro-active system for addressing absenteeism, involving teachers, HSCL, Principal & parents.
- To reduce the percentage number of children, absent for 20+ days from 29% to 26% over three years.
- To target at risk pupils through School Completion Programme.
- To increase awareness among parents about the risk factors associated with absenteeism and its' impact on their children's future attainment.
- To access training courses for parents through the ETB – one per year for 3 years.
- To address punctuality - as a number of our pupils are arriving late on a daily basis.
- To address repeated instances of early collection without good reason.

- The whole-school approach

Whole School Approach

Attendance levels announced in Cruinniú each month

Discussion re attendance at parents meetings – PA, P-T meetings, beginning of year class meetings when held etc.

Discussions at Staff Meetings

Updates on attendance on School Website, Aladdin & Home School Links

Parents are advised of the need for good attendance, the importance of their children being in school and of the impact of poor school attendance on education in the following ways:



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting good attendance • Responding to poor attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School literature prior to commencing in the school • Meeting for New Junior infant parents • Home School Links at the beginning of the school year and each term • Discussion with parents as part of the parent teacher meetings <p>Promoting good attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of attendance for full attendance and one day absence in the month of May following HERO initiative. • HERO initiative in May with raffle tickets given to pupils who arrive on time for the school bell. Certificate and raffle prize assembly at the end of this month. • Every School Day Counts initiative – regular updates to parents during the month on the importance of attendance – pizza party for most improved attendance on Junior & Senior side of the school. • Monthly award for the class with most improved attendance on the last day of each month (Pizza party) • Award for pupils who have full attendance during their eight years in the school. <p><u>Responding to poor attendance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal meets parents to discuss their child's attendance if and when it is erratic and/or becoming problematic. • Principal, School attendance officer & HSCL meetings with parents as and when the need arises. • HSCL will make a visit to the home where there is a concern around a child's attendance and it has been difficult to make contact with a parent. • Referral to Tusla if the situation has not improved despite interventions mentioned above.
<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<p>School Principal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides leadership for the creation of a school ethos and climate that is supportive of high levels of engagement and attendance; • Leads on the review and implementation of the school's Attendance Strategy;



- Initiates links with other schools and relevant bodies on school attendance issues;

AP1 with responsibility for Attendance

- Puts arrangements in place for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the school's Attendance Strategy;
- Provides opportunities for staff to engage actively with the development and monitoring of the school's Attendance Strategy;
- Notifies Tusla's Educational Welfare Services and the relevant EWO of particular problems in relation to attendance and ensures support for the work of the EWO with students who have chronic attendance difficulties;
- Furnishes pertinent attendance documentation to officers of relevant government departments.

Teachers:

- Provide a classroom climate and classroom management that support participation and engagement, especially with students who may be at risk of poor attendance;
- Actively use the school's Attendance Strategy to promote attendance;
- Set high expectations for punctuality and attendance in their classrooms;
- Agree punctuality and attendance standards with students as part of classroom rules;
- Set example by their own punctuality;
- Ensure Aladdin is called by 11am daily.
- Alert AP1 & HSCL if there are concerns about student absences;
- Support the attendance plan for students who have difficulty in attending school on a regular basis;
- Support students on return when they have missed periods of schooling;
- Record number of minutes a pupil is late, early and late collections each day on Aladdin.
- Monitor children in their class who have a history of poor attendance and make contact to address concerns if a child reaches 10 days absence without explanation.



	<p>Parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set high standards for their child in relation to attendance ; • Set high standards for their child in relation to punctuality; • Engage with the school if there is a problem about their child's attendance and support ; • Ensure that their child regularly attends and arrives at school on time; • Avoid taking their child out of class unless there is a serious reason; • Avoid taking their child on holidays during term time. <p>HSCCL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having regular communicating and providing links to the support of other agencies/initiatives (Barnardos, School Completion, Homework club, parent classes) • Attending meetings with principal, AP1, Education Welfare Officer and parents to address attendance of concern • Support AP1 in completing pre referral/referral notifications to TUSLA for incidents of chronic absenteeism.
<p>Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work in partnership with our neighbouring school – Scoil Chríost Rí in relation to school opening and closing times, school closures and school holidays. • Thomand College Secondary School – Links with school completion officer to run transition programmes for 6th class pupils.
<p>How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored</p>	<p>The statement of Strategy will be monitored by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving Staff the opportunity to share experience about how the strategy is working at staff meetings and class group meetings • sharing Annual and Monthly attendance percentages at Staff Meetings • sharing Attendance levels with Board members at each Board of Management meeting



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing annual attendance figures with parents at Parents' Association AGM and in the Home School Links
Review process and date for review	This policy will be reviewed annually. Annual and monthly attendance statistics will be assessed as part of this process.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	This statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management at its meeting on 18/4/2024
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	This statement was sent to Tusla on 18/4/2024

Signed: Jack Fitzpatrick
Chairperson

Date: 18/4/2024

Signed: [Signature]
Principal

Date: 18/4/2024