

## Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

This statement has been drawn up in consultation with all the stakeholders but in particular with staff, parents and children.

The current attendance rates are as follows:

- |                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. School Year 2017/2018 | 94.1% |
| 2. School Year 2016/2017 | 94%   |
| 3. School Year 2015/2016 | 94%   |

In the school year 2016/17 attendance was lowest in June (89.9% ) and January (93.8%) and highest in October (95.8%) and November (95.4%).

In the previous school year 2015/2016 attendance was lowest in June (90.1%) and January (91.3%) and highest in September (97%) and October(96.8%).

The pattern is clear. School attendance is highest at the start of the school year when motivation is highest.

School attendance is lowest in January ( which may be due to bad weather/flu) and June ( where it is due to families taking holidays).

Our strategy involves motivating students to maintain good attendance even after the initial settling in period. We continue to insist that the work carried out in June is of equal importance to that carried out at the start of the year and is vital for the child's development.

Our strategy also involves identifying the most serious non attenders and engaging with parents to improve attendance rates.

We have high expectations around attendance. The Aladdin system allows us to monitor school and individual attendance. We believe it is important to reward good attendance.

Our target is to have an overall attendance rate in excess of 95%. This will be communicated to parents by way of circular. This circular will stress the importance of good attendance.

A text message is sent to the parents of individual pupils when they have reached 5, 10, 15 and 20 days absence. Parents are met to discuss attendance where necessary.

Class and resource teachers play a vital role in encouraging good attendance. The SNA is in a good position at times to indicate why a pupil's attendance rate might be poor.

In terms of punctuality we have lengthened the period of supervision in the morning to 25 minutes. This allows parents to avoid the traffic congestion which exists outside the 5 schools which are in close proximity to each other.

The statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 22/01/2018 and submitted to Tusla on 29/01/2018