

## Template for the Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Scoil Namonh Bríde, Tulach Uí Chadhain
Address	Tullokyne, Moycullen, Co. Galway
Roll Number	08446K
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	Scoil Náisiúnta Tulach Uí Chadhain recognises the importance of each and every school day. It recognises the importance of developing positive habits around attendance as a life skill, critical for future success in education and beyond. As such the school places an emphasis on high levels of attendance, promotes and rewards good attendance, while working to improve the attendance of those who do not reach the high standards regularly achieved by those attending our school. The school is aware of the multitude of factors that affect attendance and recognises the child's experience in school as one of them. As such the school aims to deliver a varied and stimulating learning experience to each and every child and provide a welcoming and nurturing environment for them to learn and grow.
The school's high expectations around attendance	SN Tulach Uí Chadhain, while cognisant of the variety of difficulties faced by families each year, expects that each child will strive for 100% attendance each year. The school recognises the impact that illness, bereavement etc. has on the attendance of children and accepts that some absences are unavoidable. In such cases the school expects to be notified of such absences by parents.
How attendance will be monitored	The school uses the DataBiz School Administration System. Attendance is marked each morning. The administration system provides updates to teachers and principal when students reach certain absence markers. It will also notify parents by text message when absences reach 15 days. The school principal will regularly monitor the attendance of pupils across all classes to identify those that may be struggling. Each class teacher will monitor the attendance of their own class and notify the principal of concerns.
Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target setting and targets</li> <li>• The whole-school approach</li> <li>• Promoting good attendance</li> </ul>	<b>Targets:</b> The attendance of pupils in our school in previous years has been excellent. In the year 2018/19 there was 72 pupils on role with 372 days missed in total. There were no children with 20 days absent. Subsequent years have been disrupted with Covid. In the 2021-22

- Responding to poor attendance

school year we had a total of 911 absences with an attendance percentage of 93%. Last year we had a total of 866 absences with an attendance percentage of 93%. This year we aim to increase our average attendance to 95%.

**Whole School Approach:** The responsibility for good attendance is shared across all stakeholders.

Board of Management: It is the responsibility of the B.O.M. to ensure a welcoming and safe learning environment for each and every pupil.

To ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for promoting and monitoring attendance and for dealing with poor attendance.

Principal: It is the responsibility of the principal:

To ensure that adequate systems are in place to record and monitor attendance.

To monitor attendance records regularly.

To ensure that procedures in place for dealing with high absenteeism are followed

To ensure both parents and pupils are reminded regularly of the importance of regular and consistent attendance.

To communicate with parents, pupils and relevant outside agencies when deemed necessary.

To report to the Board of Management when necessary.

To carry out the role of day to day management of the school, ensuring a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment with quality teaching and learning.

To identify and help alleviate problems that may lead to poor attendance.

Teachers: Each teacher has the responsibility to:

Record daily attendance.

Set a positive example to children with their own punctuality and attendance.

Create a warm, welcoming and stimulating learning environment for the children in their care.

In as far as is practicable investigate and record the reasons for absence of children from their class.

Communicate concerns to principal/parent should they arise.

To acknowledge students, welcome them back and provide appropriate support following absence.

Parents: It is the responsibility of parents

To support the school's Attendance Strategy in compliance with their legal responsibilities (Education Welfare Act 2000)

To ensure regular and punctual attendance and to avoid unnecessary absences.

To arrange appointments outside of school times where possible

To provide an explanation for the student's absence on the first day of return to school.

In the case of a prolonged absence, and the student being under medical care, a letter or cert from the attending practitioner should be included.

To communicate with the school during prolonged absences

To inform the school in advance of any planned absences

To acknowledge and, where necessary, to reply to communications from the school in relation to attendance issues

Pupils: Pupils have a responsibility to play their part in attending school regularly and punctually

To take responsibility for their learning following an absence in relation to missed work.

**Promoting Good Attendance:** First and foremost, the school endeavours to deliver quality teaching and learning across a wide curriculum catering for the needs of each child in its care. The school endeavours to ensure that each child is happy coming to school by promoting positive relationships between teachers and students and students and their peers and through the creation of a stimulating learning environment.

The school community recognises and rewards full attendance at the half way point of the year with certificates as well as at the end of the year. Those who do not have full attendance but have also very good attendance records are similarly praised.

This year the school has a number of specific initiatives aimed at promoting school attendance. The Fun Friends and Friends for Life programmes will be taught to help children deal with anxiety and negative feelings that they may have towards school or indeed any other elements in their lives.

The school will also work towards developing an increasing stimulating and positive outdoor space for children to be in. We will carry out work to improve the outdoor garden spaces and provide an outlet for children for mindful practices outside.

**Responding to poor attendance:** The school's first reaction to poor attendance is to find ways to **help** improve attendance. The school is aware of the difficulty of family life and recognises that there is usually an underlying cause for poor attendance. It is the responsibility of the school to do what it can to alleviate

	<p>those difficulties, within reason. A major pillar of our response is regular positive communication with the families involved. Our school administration system notifies parents when their child reaches certain milestones while also notifying teachers and the school principal giving us the opportunity to engage with parents to help alleviate problems. In certain cases it may be necessary to involve outside agencies.</p>
<p>Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)</p>	<p>SN Tulach Uí Chadhain works in partnership with the GAA, local dance and music teachers and the school's Parents' Association to provide a variety of opportunities for engagement in extra-curricular activities throughout the school term in order to encourage good attendance. Outside speakers from various organisations are sometimes engaged to speak to the children across different topics relating to SPHE and wellbeing. The school has a good relationship with other schools in the community &amp; with community groups. The Principals of the local post-primary schools visit the senior classroom during the course of the year. The school sends pupils' end-of-year school reports &amp; school passports to the appropriate post-primary schools at the end of 6th class.</p>
<p>How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored</p>	<p>The Statement of Strategy will be reviewed annually by staff and the Board of Management. Targets will be checked for success and new targets and actions will be decided upon.</p>
<p>Review process and date for review</p>	<p>September 2024</p>
<p>Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management</p>	<p>This Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management on</p>
<p>Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla</p>	