

Template for the Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Naul National School
Address	Naul Co Dublin
Roll Number	01170g
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	The Board of Management and staff of Naul NS are committed to providing a positive school atmosphere which is conducive to promoting good school attendance
The school's high expectations around attendance	The vast majority of pupils of Naul NS are punctual and are excellent attenders. The management and staff hope to promote co-operation among pupils, parents/guardians and staff in maintaining the current level of attendance and punctuality throughout the school year whilst endeavouring to increase it.
How attendance will be monitored	<p>Procedures for recording attendance are laid out in the school's Attendance Policy</p> <p>Roll Call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The school attendance of individual pupils is recorded daily by the class teacher. · The class teacher records explained and unexplained absences. · The class teacher notifies the Principal of concerns regarding the attendance of any child and/or when the pupil reaches 15 days absence. <p>The Daily Attendance Book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Class attendance is recorded daily in the Daily Attendance Book. · The Daily Attendance book and individual attendance statistics are reviewed weekly by the Deputy Principal. <p>Reporting to the Board of Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Principal provides an update on attendance at each meeting of the School Board of Management. <p>Annual Attendance Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The annual attendance of each individual pupil is recorded by the Principal at the end of the school year in the School Register. · The Deputy Principal reviews annual school attendance statistics and compares them with previous years to identify patterns of poor attendance. An annual attendance report is presented to the school Board of Management.
Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:	<p>Targets for School Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To review and update the school Attendance Policy. · To raise awareness of attendance among

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting and targets • The whole-school approach • Promoting good attendance • Responding to poor attendance 	<p>management, staff, students and parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness of the vital role parents play in their child's school attendance. • To enhance the school's capacity to manage attendance data by setting up and utilising a computerised system (<i>Aladdin</i>) • To put in place strategies to ensure the early detection and correction of patterns of poor attendance. • To develop suitable intervention strategies to support individual students with poor attendance and their parents. • To further develop working partnerships between the school and other relevant agencies and servicers. • To raise awareness of strategies to minimise the spread of common illnesses within the school. • To provide guidance to parents and staff on school absences arising from common illnesses. <p>Whole School Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Management has ultimate responsibility for the promotion and monitoring of attendance in the school. • Management and staff work as a team with consistent approach to attendance. • Parents and students have opportunities to contribute to and take appropriate responsibility for attendance policy and strategy. <p>Strategies for promoting good school attendance</p> <p>1. Raising Awareness of Attendance</p> <p>The school recognises the importance of raising awareness about the importance of attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal addresses the importance of good attendance at the initial meeting for new parents. • Attendance is discussed at Board of Management, Staff, Parent Association and Student Council meetings and parent-teacher meetings. • Updates on attendance are provided in the school newsletter and on the school website. • Tusla's Education Welfare Services' leaflet entitled <i>Don't Let Your Child Miss Out</i> is distributed to parents on enrolment • Class teachers provide positive affirmation of attendance when roll is being taken. • The monthly attendance of pupils from First Class to Sixth Class is recorded at the back of pupil homework journals and parents are asked to sign off on it. • Monthly Attendance Assemblies are held. • Attendance Award posters are placed on the doors of classes with good attendance and a class attendance award is displayed in the classroom. • Records of attendance are provided on pupil end of year reports • Parents receive an update of their child's attendance at the end of the school year. • Records of attendance are provided on a student's Education Passport <p>2. Involving Parents in Setting High Expectations for Attendance</p> <p>The school recognises that parental involvement is of</p>
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paramount importance to students' well-being and success in school generally and in particular their attendance at school. Parental involvement is fostered by;

- Regular communication between parents and the school
- Parental involvement in school life eg. attendance at concerts, school events and class meetings.
- An active Parent Association which all parents are encouraged to join
- Opportunities for parents to review proposed policies

In addition to this;

- The calendar for the coming year is published annually in June and a copy is posted on the website naulschool.ie Parents are encouraged to plan holidays and family events around school closures.
- The school highlights to parents how missed days can have a negative effect on the student's achievement and thus cause stress.

3. Providing Support Programmes to Enhance Attendance

The school endeavours to provide support programmes to promote attendance;

- Enrichment and sporting activities are provided. Enrichment and sporting activities are both co-curricular (eg. Ukulele lessons, school choir and tennis coaching) and extra-curricular (gaelic football, Peace Proms Concert and the *Be Active* programme).

· Pupils are given opportunities to participate in decision making and to assume leadership roles in the school eg. the Student Council, The Active School Committee and Green Schools Committee.

- A "Buddy" system is in place where sixth class pupils volunteer to support Junior Infant pupils adjust to school routines.

· Individual and group programmes to support pupils in their social, emotional and personal development are delivered, where appropriate eg. Roots of Empathy programme.

4. Rewarding Good Attendance

A special incentive system is in place to celebrate and reward good attendance

- Monthly assemblies take place
- Attendance stickers given to junior pupils to recognise full attendance that month.
- Homework passes given to senior pupils. To recognise full attendance that month.
- Full attenders are rewarded at the end of each term.
- A full attendance certificate along with a special reward is presented to those who have full attendance for the school year.

· The names of pupils with full attendance for the year are published in the end of year newsletter.

5. Building Linkages with other Schools, Youth Organisations and Local Organisations

The school fosters links with other schools in the area, youth organisations and any local organisations whose work could encourage participation and attendance;

- Working with local early education providers to identify pupils transitioning to our school who may need

additional supports

- Working with post-primary schools to support attendance in transition from primary to post-primary school.
- Joint holiday planning to support attendance from families with children attending different schools.
- Principals' networks working on joint approaches to raising awareness about the importance of attendance, promoting attendance and sharing experience

Responding to Poor Attendance.

1. Monitoring attendance

- The attendance rates of individual pupils will be monitored by the class teacher in the first instance. The class teacher will notify the Principal of concerns regarding the attendance of any child.
- Parents will be informed by text when their child has been absent for 10 days.
- Parents will be informed in writing by the Principal when their child has been absent for 15 days.

· Emerging patterns of poor attendance are monitored by the Deputy Principal weekly and annually to identify class-groups or sub-groups of students in need of support.

2. Tailoring whole-school approaches to group or individual needs

The school identifies and supports students who may need additional support including pupils with special educational needs, students with health needs, students who have experienced bullying, students experiencing emotional or behavioural difficulties.

- Internal communication procedures are in place to inform teachers of pupils who may need additional support.
- The school curriculum, insofar as is practicable, is flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child.
- The school promotes development of good self-concept and self-worth in the children.
- Support for pupils who have special educational needs are in place in accordance with Department of Education & Science guidelines.

3. Engaging in early dialogue

- School staff make every effort to engage in early dialogue with parents and students on attendance both informally and formally eg. highlighting attendance patterns during Parent Teacher meetings.
- Parents are informed in writing by the Principal when their child has been absent for 15 days.
- Parents are invited to meet with the Principal to formally discuss concerns about pupil absences and to put in place strategies to improve pupil attendance.
- Pupils with a poor attendance record will, insofar as is practical, be supported in an effort to improve their attendance.
- The school will, insofar as is practical, respond to underlying reasons for non-attendance eg. sickness, bullying, inappropriate curriculum.

4. Using school-led multi-agency support process

- The school consults with the National Educational Psychological Service (N.E.P.S.) and relevant external personnel who have a particular expertise to support students, families and the school with poor attendance.

<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<p>The school works with social and child support services including Tusla – Child and Family Agency and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as well as child welfare organisations such as Barnardos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The school fosters strong links with local and community organisations that provide support to young people and their families in the area including Spafield Family Resource Centre and Cashel Youth Service. <p>5. Referral to Tusla’s Educational Welfare Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The school complies fully with reporting procedures to TUSLA and liaises with the education welfare officer when necessary. Details of reporting procedures are set out in the school Attendance Policy. <p><i>Class Teachers will</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bring their professional expertise and insight to bear on the preparation of the Statement of Strategy. · Maintain accurate class attendance records and record late arrivals and early departures. · Keep a record of explained and unexplained absences. · Contact parents in instances where absences are not explained in writing. · Encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually. · Engage in early dialogue with parents and students on attendance, both informally and formally, eg. by highlighting attendance issues during Parent Teacher meetings. · Inform the Principal of concerns she may have regarding the attendance of any pupil. · Submit the relevant paperwork to the Principal when a pupil has reached the 15 day absence benchmark · Make every effort to implement support strategies for pupils with poor attendance in conjunction with the school principal, deputy principal and other support staff. <p><i>Parents will</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ensure regular and punctual school attendance. · Make sure their children understand that parents support and approve of school attendance. · Ensure, insofar as is possible, that children’s appointments (dentist etc.), are arranged for times outside of school hours · Notify the school if their children cannot attend for any reason. · Inform the school in writing of the reasons for absence from school. · Show an interest in their children’s school day and their children’s homework. · Encourage children to participate in school activities. · Praise and encourage their children’s achievements. · Instil in their children a positive self-concept and a positive sense of self-worth. · Contact the school immediately if they have concerns about absence or other related school matters. · Work with the school and Education Welfare service to resolve any attendance problems. <p><i>Pupils will</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attend school regularly and punctually. · Inform staff if there is a problem that may lead to their absence.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Show absence notes from parents to their class teacher promptly. · Pass school correspondence to their parents on the specified day.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	This strategy was developed and approved by the management of Naul NS. We engage with the EWO frequently.
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	<p>Attendance figures will be analysed at the end of each term/ annually and compared with attendance of previous school years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The number of pupils referred to the Education Welfare Officer will be monitored and compared to previous years. · Attendance for individual pupils with poor attendance, will be monitored and compared to previous years. · The number of absences due to pupil illness will be reviewed. · The average number of absences per pupil will be compared to previous years. · The School Attendance Policy will be reviewed and updated.
Review process and date for review	The policy will be reviewed every 3 years at meeting of the Board of Management alongside the school Attendance Policy.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	08/11/22