



Patrician Primary School

Attendance Strategy

Rationale

The Spirit of Patrician Primary School is to enable children to achieve their true potential educationally and socially. The BoM of Patrician Primary School will endeavour to promote punctual, regular attendance in school and strive to give the children their optimum educational entitlements.

Aims

1. To ensure that each child will achieve as close as possible to maximum attendance
2. To enable our pupils to participate as fully as possible in the curriculum
3. To encourage children/parents/guardians to be punctual everyday
4. To make parents/guardians aware of the relevant sections of the Education Welfare Act 2000

Legislation

According to the Education Act 2000, parents must ensure that their children from the age of 6 to the age of 16 attend a recognised school or receive a certain minimum education.

Stages of Intervention

Stage 1) Understanding Attendance

- These guidelines have been informed by:
 - www.tusla.ie/tess
 - www.attendanceworks.org
 - www.ruleraapproach.org
- PATHS Programme (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)
- Factors that impact attendance
 - Pupil attitude towards school
 - Family attitude toward school
 - School-wide supports
- Links between school attendance and emotional, behavioural and academic performance (data from Tusla Educational Support Services)
 - As a student, consistently poor school attendance can lead to:
 - Emotional and behavioural problems
 - Academic problems
 - Poor social skills
 - Early school drop-out
 - As an adult, consistently poor school attendance can lead to:
 - Substance abuse
 - Marital problems
 - Employment problems
 - Lower wages
 - Psychiatric problems
- 'Three Tier Model' as an effective approach to promote attendance
 - see below for attendance strategies using this model

Stage 2) Promoting Good Attendance

- Strategies to raise awareness and set high expectations around attendance
 - Emphasise need to minimise 'unexplained absences' to staff
 - Emphasise need for all parents/guardians to provide absence notes when necessary
- Meaningful systems of incentive and reward for good attendance
 - Include initiatives that are relevant to pupils from all three tiers of intervention
- Links with other community and youth services to support attendance
 - Liaise with the following: (This list is not exhaustive)
 - School Completion Programme (SCP) Project Worker
 - School Completion Programme (SCP) Coordinator
 - Duty Educational Welfare Officer (TESS)
 - EWO (Educational Welfare Officer)
 - Tusla Social Workers
 - Newbridge Family Resource Centre and 'InSync'

Stage 3) Responding to Poor Attendance

- Identifying groups that may need extra support
 - Identify 'Target Children' for SCP support
- Continually focus on whole-school approach as well as target children
- Engage with external agencies when appropriate

How attendance will be measured:

Actions	Responsibility
Recording attendances on a daily basis on www.aladdin.ie	Class teachers – school secretary may do so in the event of a teacher absence
'Unexplained Absences' will be kept to a minimum	Class teachers
Report attendance statistics to BoM	Principal

‘Three-Tier Approach’ to Attendance

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
<p>Whole-School Attendance</p> <p>Pupils exhibiting satisfactory attendance Attending >90% i.e. absent max 18 days a year</p> <p>Long term Goal: at least 80% of pupils 2022/2023 statistics: 64% - 212 pupils</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Positive school culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued high awareness and promotion of anti-bullying policy - Continued reinforcement of three golden rules “work hard, be kind, have fun” - Continued positive pupil-teacher relationships - E.g. each day begins with a positive greeting at the door (scientifically proven to improve attendance and decrease misbehaviour) - Positive comments on attendance “I’m glad you’re back” as a first response vs “Where were you?” - Continue to promote sense of belonging e.g. International Day, multi-lingual newsletter translations, Nurture Room etc. <p>Responsibility: All Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homework Club for SCP ‘Target Children’ <p>Responsibility: Relevant Staff</p>	<p>Pupils at risk of chronic absenteeism</p> <p>85%-90% attendance i.e. absent 19-27 days a year</p> <p>Long Term Goal: 15% of pupils or lower 2022/2023 statistics: 23% - 81 pupils</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Send warning letter when 20 days are missed</p> <p>Responsibility: principal</p>	<p>Chronic absenteeism</p> <p>Attending less than 85% i.e. absent over 27 days a year</p> <p>Long Term Goal: 5% of pupils or lower 2022/2023 statistics: 13% - 47 pupils</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Send warning letter when 30 days are missed. Include pie chart visual.</p> <p>Include policy stats on dangers of poor attendance</p> <p>Responsibility: principal</p>
	<p>Include in Tusla Attendance Report when 20 days or more are missed</p> <p>Responsibility: principal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact Duty Educational Welfare Officer (TESS) -Evonne Tougher with cases of 40-50 day absences - When we have about 8-10 candidates with this number, she will do an attendance clinic visit, including parental contact <p>Responsibility: principal</p>

<p>Educate parents/guardians by sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - include procedures for informing school of absence in newsletter - include details of poster campaigns and other relevant documents in newsletter - school will re-send annual school calendar at the start of each term and remind parents/guardians about the importance of attendance <p><i>Responsibility: principal + SCP Project Worker</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact EWO when 50 days or more are missed and all other previous strategies have taken place - EWO will liaise with principal on action plan for these cases <p><i>Responsibility: principal</i></p>
<p>Inform all parents/guardians at Parent-Teacher Meetings of how many days missed so far and in % form</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Class teacher</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make Tusla Referral when 50 or more days are missed - Make BoM aware of these cases with appropriate details redacted <p><i>Responsibility: principal</i></p>
<p>Include attendance on report cards</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Class teacher</i></p>		
<p>'Attendance Hero' poster competition in term 2 of 2023/2024 (show examples from TESS website) Here</p> <p>Everyday Ready</p> <p>On time</p> <p>Display copies of winning entry in corridors, on school website and on school exterior visible to laneway</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Tasks shared between Class teachers, principal</i></p>		

Timeframe for Review


- The targets and strategies will be updated upon review or when appropriate.
- The BoM will be made aware of general statistics at each meeting
- The policy will be part of the school five year review plan.
- Stakeholders including staff, Parent Association representatives, pupils and BoM will be consulted in reviews of this policy.

Ratified by Board of Management on: 29/5/24 Date:

Signed: *David Dempsey* (principal)
David Dempsey

Signed: *Brian Mulvey* (chairperson of BoM)
Brian Mulvey

Version Control

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