

Deis Plan - Attendance Strategy

Summary Plan to promote Attendance

Review: Year 1

Year 2

The Overall attendance rate year-on-year has remained steady for the last 3 years at 96%

2020/2021 - 95.95%

2019/2020 - 96.21%

2018/2019 - 96.23%

Our overall attendance is relatively steady, but we have noticed an increase in the number of pupils who have missed 20 days or more. While this figure is Covid-19 related we are fully aware that good attendance is closely linked to pupils' progress. Therefore, an improvement in the rate of attendance and a reduction in the number of pupils arriving late and/or leaving early will be a priority of ours for the foreseeable.

Target (s)

- 1. To increase number of pupils on excellent attendance (missed 0, 1, 2, or 3 days) from 7% in 2021 (5 pupils out of 69) to 20% (14 pupils) in 3 years.*
- 2. To reduce the number of pupils absent for 20 + days per year from 19% (13 pupils out of 69) in 21/22 to 10% (7 pupils) in 3 years.*

Year 1.

- 3. To reduce the number of pupils arriving late from January '23 to June '23.*

Year 2

- 4. To reduce the number of pupils who leave school early on a regular basis; from September '23 to June '24.*
- 5. To continue to raise awareness among the parents, as well as the pupils as to the importance of good attendance and the issues surrounding poor attendance.*
- 6. To maintain the current attendance rate, whilst endeavouring to increase it.*
- 7. To continue recording and analysing attendance rates using Aladdin.*
- 8. To continue with the current practice of monitoring, reviewing and reporting on attendance.*

Actions

Year 1.

- January 23rd – 27th will be designated “Attendance Week” with classroom activities and competitions planned to support this.
- Monthly prizes for the highest average attendance will be awarded at assembly.
- Attendance Certificates and prizes for improved and unbroken attendance will be awarded at end of each term, at Christmas, Easter and summer, with the recipients’ photographs being posted on the school website.
- Wellbeing Walk each morning (weather permitting).
- Welcoming environment to encourage attendance.
- School lunches to be implemented.
- Involve pupils in sports activities provided in the school – GAA, Soccer, Athletics, etc.
- Involve pupils in Music initiatives; Choir, Tin Whistle.
- Involve pupils in Christmas Plays & annual Carol Service.
- The importance of good school attendance will be reinforced regularly at our weekly assembly.
- The importance of good attendance will be highlighted regularly in the school’s newsletters.
- Class teachers contact “at-risk” children during absences.
- Attendance of “at-risk” children is monitored closely and strategy meeting called if deemed necessary.
- P.E. equipment will be supplied to the pupils each morning before school begins to encourage pupils to arrive early.
- Analysis of date regarding the link between attainment and attendance.

Actions

Year 2.

- “Attendance raffle” will be launched from September.
- Children in all classes will receive a ticket each day for a) being punctual and b) attending all day. The raffles for various prizes will take place at the weekly assembly.
- Attendance Certificates for improved and unbroken attendance will be awarded at end of each term, at Christmas, Easter and summer, with the recipients’ photographs being posted on the school website.
- The importance of good school attendance will be reinforced regularly at our weekly assembly.
- The importance of good attendance will be highlighted regularly in the school’s newsletters.
- Class teachers contact “at-risk” children during absences.
- Attendance of “at-risk” children is monitored closely and strategy meeting called if deemed necessary.
- Parents encouraged to arrange any meetings/appointments for their children outside of school hours where possible.
- Parents are encouraged to plan breaks away/family holidays during school closures.

Monitoring

Mrs Rose (D.P.) will collect the weekly attendance sheets (see example attached) which include names and reasons for arriving late and leaving early. These will be analysed each month (HR hour), at the end of each term and at the end of the year, thereby providing term-on-term and year-on-year comparisons (i.e. robust analysis).

Year 1 focus:

Late arrivals will be monitored for 4 months (up to Easter '23) and signs of improvement/deterioration will be highlighted and shared with whole school body. Analysis will follow and strategies will be evaluated accordingly.

Year 2 focus:

To reduce the number of children who leave early during the school day on a regular basis. We will notify parents by letter when a child reaches 15/20 days absent.

Referrals to TUSLA to be made in chronic cases of non-attendance.

<i>Measures</i>	<i>Addressing Targets</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Lead Responsibility</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<p>Daily tracking and monitoring of attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging children to be punctual. • Encouraging children to attend regularly. • Absent notes: Keep notes explaining absences; Request written explanation if no note received. 	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	All teachers	All teachers	Daily	
<p>Further tracking and monitoring attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy meetings when necessary. • Reward systems in place for class groupings with the highest combined attendance monthly. • Reward systems in place for children with the highest attendance yearly. • Analysis of Data regarding the link between attainment and attendance. 	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Principal, Secretary, all teachers	Principal	Weekly Monthly Yearly	Personnel, Aladdin
<p>Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify parents by letter when a child reaches 15/20 days absent. • Referrals to TUSLA to be made in chronic cases of non-attendance. 	2, 5, 7, 8	Principal, Secretary	Principal	When Necessary	Aladdin, Tusla referral letters
<p>Support to remove issues around poor attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School lunches to be implemented. • Involvement of children in Sports activities provided in the school - Football, Athletics, Soccer,... • Involvement of children in Music Programme initiative provided in the school - Tin Whistle, Choir • Involvement of children in Christmas Plays. 	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Principal, all teachers, parents, S.N.A's	Principal	Daily	Cuman na mBunscol, Music Generation, Fresh Today, St. Catherine's Soccer Club, Finn Harps, Tir Chonaill A.C.

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Ratification and Implementation

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 9th May 2023.

Colm Ó Gallchóir

09/05/2023

Chairperson, Board of Management

Joseph Cannon

09/05/2023

Principal