SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STRATEGY AND POLICY

NAME OF SCHOOL **Gaelscoil Átha Í**

SCHOOL ADDRESS **An Tom Ard, Baile Átha Í, Co. Chill Dara.**

ROLL NUMBER **20192A**

SCHOOL'S VISION AND VALUES IN RELATION TO ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school is a requirement under law. Our strategy hopes to continue to promote attendance and to encourage parents and children to see that good attendance has a positive impact on teaching and learning. We seek to ensure that all pupils in our school achieve their potential in all areas of learning and development.

SCHOOL'S HIGH EXPECTATIONS AROUND ATTENDANCE

High levels of attendance are integral to the holistic development of the child and their self-esteem in relation to school-based activities.
We therefore expect that parents ensure their child attends school every day unless they are unable to do so due to illness, etc. Such absences must be explained to the school in writing at the earliest opportunity.

HOW ATTENDANCE WILL BE MONITORED

At classroom level:

- ✔ Attendance is recorded daily on the school *Aladdin* system;
- ✔ Upon their return to school, pupils are asked to produce a note relating to their absence;
- ✔ If no note is forthcoming, a note will be provided to the child, for the attention if the parent/guardian seeking clarification;
- ✔ Pupils identified as being at-risk of low attendance rates are notified to school management.

At whole-school level:

- ✔ Attendance levels are monitored on a monthly basis using the Leabhar Tinrimh and the *Aladdin* system;
- ✔ Pupils who have been identified as being at-risk of low attendance are closely monitored and notes are requested;
- ✔ Pupils who have been absent for a period of 15 days are notified to the Board of Management as those who are at-risk, letters of concern are issued, and those with frequent unexplained absences are contacted by phone;
- ✔ When a pupil reaches 20 days absence within a school year, a letter is sent to parents and the absence is notified to Tusla;
- ✔ School management continues to communicate with parents regarding repeated absences and attendance patterns continue to be closely monitored.

SCHOOL APPROACH TO ATTENDANCE

1. *Target setting and Targets*
    a. Our school attendance strategy and policy will be reviewed regularly.
    b. Information regarding attendance rates over the intervening period will be analysed and targets set accordingly

2. *Whole-school approach*
    a. Our school curriculum is flexible and adapted to pupils' needs
    b. We work at developing positive self-confidence in our pupils along with a sense of responsibility
    c. A praise and rewards system is in place to recognise the efforts of those with very good and excellent attendance records
    d. Attendance is discussed at monthly assemblies and recognition given to those pupils who have achieved high levels of attendance during that month, through the issuing of *'Cártaí Lán-Thinrimh'* and prizes.
    e. Children who achieve full-attendance, and those who miss only one day, are recognised through receiving certificates and prizes at Christmas assembly, and again at end-of-year assembly.
    f. Class teachers and school managment regularly monitor attendance levels.

3. *Promoting good attendance*
    a. Our school curriculum is flexible and adapted to pupils' needs
    b. Attendance is prioritised both in classrooms and at monthly assemblies
    c. Good attendance is recognised with rewards being given out once a month and also termly
    d. Parents/guardians are reminded of the importance of high levels of attendance regularly throughout the year
    e. Pupils' attendance is recorded in end-of-year reports
    f. The School participates in Túsla *"Every School Day Counts"* Attendance Campaign

4. *Responding to poor attendance*
    a. Pupils at-risk of low attendance rates are recognised and monitored as early as possible
    b. Communication with parents/guardians is central to addressing recurring issues with attendance
    c. Parental support is offered if deemed necessary or beneficial
    d. Advice will be sought from Tusla regarding further strategies which could be put in place

SCHOOL ROLE IN RELATION TO ATTENDANCE

The school will ensure that:

- good school attendance will be praised and promoted
- children's attendance will be logged carefully and effectively
- attendance will be recorded on a daily basis
- parents/guardians will be contacted when we are unaware of prolonged absences or if we have not received notification about such absences.
- pupil's attendance and punctuality will be monitored

- attendance statistics will be provided to the following
  a) Board of Management: at each Board meeting
  b) Tusla: in December and June in line with current guidelines

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

To ensure the success of this strategy, we seek the co-operation of the following:

- pupils
- parents
- teaching staff
- school management
- Tusla
- local family support services

HOW THE STATEMENT OF STRATEGY WILL BE MONITORED

This strategy will be monitored on a regular basis. Our intention is to carry our these reviews every three years but this timeframe may change depending on school requirements or priorities in the area of Attendance.

REVIEW PROCESS AND DATE FOR REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed during the school year 2023-2024.

RATIFICATION BY BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND SUBMISSION TO TUSLA

This strategy was presented to and ratified by the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Átha Í on 11th December 2019. Following this ratification, the strategy was submitted to Tusla.

Treasa Uí Néill

_____ 11th December 2019

Treasa Uí Néill, Cathaoirleach

Date