



Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	The Mercy School
Address	St John's Road, Wexford
Roll Number	17373k
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>In the Mercy School we strive for excellence where children are encouraged to achieve their full potential in their academic, creative and personal development. We work to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes that are necessary for their development into active, responsible adults.</p> <p>The Mercy School has decided to review its attendance strategies in relation to the Tusla Publication of 2015 in relation to school attendance.</p> <p>Aims In the Mercy School we aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To foster an appreciation of learning and promote positive attitudes towards learning• To raise awareness of the importance of school attendance and its contribution towards a positive learning experience• To identify pupils at risk of poor attendance / punctuality• To enhance the learning environment where children can make progress in all aspects of their development and learning• To ensure that the system of rules, reward and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner which encourages pupils to attend school• To comply with requirements under Education Welfare Act 2000/ guidelines from NEWB
The school's high expectations around attendance	<p>The vast majority of pupils have extremely good attendance achieving over 92% full attendance in most classes. Good attendance is promoted and linked with both academic achievement and enjoyment of school. Attendance is discussed with all parents at the incoming Junior Infants meeting in June prior to the September starting school. An emphasis is placed on establishing good habits in relation to attendance and punctuality and how poor attendance can seriously impact on progress throughout a child's time at school.</p>
How attendance will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll call is taken by 10am each morning by the class teacher and recorded onto the Aladdin system• Written notes in the school journal are required to explain absences• Teachers record late arrivals on Aladdin• Parents are requested to sign in late arrivals and early leavers at the office and both figures are added to Aladdin on a regular basis• Aladdin is checked regularly for poor attenders,

<p>Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting and targets • The whole-school approach • Promoting good attendance • Responding to poor attendance 	<p style="text-align: center;">punctuality and early leavers</p> <p>Targets :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to improve on morning punctuality • To continue to raise awareness among parents of the negative impact of holidays taken during term time on a child's education, particularly when taken in September / October • To maintain current attendance rate, whilst endeavouring to increase it <p>Whole School Approach :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of good attendance will be reinforced at our school assemblies and highlighted in the school's newsletters • Class teachers inform the Principal of children they would consider " at risk" due to erratic or prolonged unexplained absences, lateness/early leaving from school • Attendance of " at risk" children is monitored and used as a selection criteria for intervention by SCP staff <p>Promoting Good Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance praised regularly in each classroom, as part of our positive code of behaviour • Develop awareness of good attendance during our focus fortnight on attendance which will be held twice yearly at the beginning and in the third term of the year. • Attendance Certificates for improved and unbroken attendance will be awarded @ the end of each term <p>Response to poor attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular checks on Aladdin on the 10 most absent pupils facility • Teachers report to Principal any concerns re absences • Phonecall to parents after 10 – 12 days absence • Letters to parents at 15 days and 20+ days • Monitoring of late arrivals/ early leavers on Aladdin • To raise awareness among parents of trying to avoid having appointments in school time if all possible • Parents of children who are deemed "at risk" are invited to meet with class teacher and/or principal. • SCP staff used to put in place interventions to support at risk children
<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<p>The Board of Management has the overall responsibility for the preparation of this Statement of Strategy and to ensure it is implemented and reviewed periodically. The Principal is delegated by the Board to ensure that the Statement of Strategy is appropriately communicated and co-ordinated by the staff of the school.</p> <p>Teachers and other staff members are active members of the school community and will prepare this Statement of Strategy and will support its implementation with the pupils in their care. Pupils are encouraged to discuss school attendance and its importance in their learning and participation in school activities. The involvement of Parents/Guardians and their support is essential in ensuring the Statement of Strategy is beneficial in</p>

	<p>supporting their children's education.</p> <p>Other agencies and personnel included in supporting and implementing this strategy include School Completion Staff, NEPS, SENO and the Educational Welfare Officer.</p>
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	<p>Support for all - policies and practices will include a full range of curricular and pastoral activities including incentives and awareness raising among the entire school community. The school provides arrange of sporting and cultural activities which seek to actively involve the pupils in school life</p> <p>Support for some - these families may need additional supports including a targeted attendance intervention.</p> <p>Support for few - some families may need a multi- disciplinary approach and may be referred to Túsła's Educational Welfare Services.</p>
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	<p>Attendance figures will be analysed (including late-comers and early leavers) at the end of a term / year.</p> <p>Attendance figures will be compared with attendance of the previous school year. At risk families will be monitored and yearly comparisons made.</p>
Review process and date for review	First review to take place in June 2018
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Túsła	