

Statement of Strategy for Pupil Attendance

Kilbonane National School

Knocknahilan

Aherla

Co. Cork

Roll No: 173381

Tel: 021-7331730

Email: office@kilbonaneschool.com



Rationale:

This statement was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents, Board of Management and Educational Welfare Officer in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in Kilbonane National School to foster an appreciation of learning among pupils and encourage regular attendance at school.

Rewarding of Students with Good Attendance:

Students with good attendance may be rewarded in the following ways:

- ✓ Presenting certificates to pupils who have full attendance at the end of each term
- ✓ Presenting certificates to pupils who have almost full attendance at the end of each term and who have produced notes of absence for time missed

Strategies for Improving Attendance:

The following strategies will be employed to improve attendance:

- The school curriculum, insofar as is practicable, will be flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child
- Kilbonane National School will promote development of good self-esteem and self worth in its pupils (see Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy)
- Support for pupils who have special educational needs in accordance with DE guidelines
- Attendance rates of pupils will be monitored by the class teacher in the first instance and the class teacher will notify the Principal of any concerns regarding the attendance of any pupil
- The principal assesses each case individually at this point and a home visit may be deemed necessary
- The class teacher will encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually
- The class teacher will ensure that contact is made with parents/guardians in instances where absences are not explained. A standard note is used for this purpose
- The class teacher will keep a daily record of attendance in Aladdin
- The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff
- The Principal will inform the NEWB:
 - When a pupil has been missing for twenty or more days during the course of the school year
 - When a pupil has been suspended from school more than once under the Code of Behaviour

Identification of Students who are at risk of developing School Attendance Problems:

The following strategies may be employed to identify students at risk of developing school attendance problems:

- ❑ On transfer to Kilbonane National School, attendance records will be sought from previous schools on pupil attendance
- ❑ Class teachers will inform the Principal of any concerns s/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil
- ❑ Contact with various agencies who are involved with such students

Establishment of Closer Contacts between the School and Home:

Closer home/school relations will be fostered through:

- The Parents' Association
- Attendance at meetings (Parent/Teacher, etc)
- Attendance at Sports Day
- Attendance at school events (eg Concerts, Masses, etc).
- Involvement in Paired Reading, Maths for Fun, etc.
- Availability of teachers in their classrooms each morning

Fostering Contacts:

Contact with the following bodies will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of students in Kilbonane National School:

- NEWB
- Other schools in the vicinity
- NEPS
- Kilmurry Parish
- Local GAA clubs, soccer clubs, etc.
- Community Gardaí
- Local interest groups

Encouraging Full Participation of Students in the Life of the School:

In so far as is practicable, programmes will be developed with the bodies mentioned above which will encourage the full participation with students in the life of the school. Examples of these are:

- ✓ Counselling (Rainbows, behavioural, bereavement, etc)
- ✓ Gaelic Games and soccer
- ✓ School Mass
- ✓ Sciath na Scol (local schools)

Identification of Aspects and Strategies:

The Board of Management, teachers and whole school community will be mindful at all times of:

- The identification of aspects of the operation and management of the school and of the teaching of the school curriculum that may contribute to problems relating to school attendance on the part of certain students
- The identification of strategies for the removal of those aspects in so far as they are not necessary or expedient for the proper and effective running of the school having regard, in particular, to the educational needs of students
- The identification of strategies that will encourage more regular attendance at school on the part of such students
- The need to review this strategy into the future to accommodate the changing needs of the school and of its population

Review:

The above policy was discussed and ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management in September 2017. It will be reviewed as necessary.