

# *Statement of Strategy for Pupil Attendance.*



**2017/2018**  
***St. Manchan's N.S.***  
***Mohill***  
***Co. Leitrim***  
***Roll Number: 20203C***

### **RATIONALE:**

This statement was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents, and Board of Management and Educational Welfare Officer in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in **St Manchan's National School** to foster an appreciation of learning among pupils and encourage regular attendance at school. It was updated in 2017/18

### **REWARDING OF STUDENTS WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE:**

As a DEIS school, targeting good attendance is part of our school action plan. Students with good attendance may be rewarded in the following ways:

Acknowledging students with good attendance at school assemblies  
Rewarding students with almost good attendance (absent for 10 or less days) at the end of the school year.

### **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.
- ✓ **St Manchan's NS** 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 DES guidelines.
- ✓ Attendance rates of pupils will be monitored by the class teacher in the first instance through the Aladdin program and the class teacher will notify the Principal of any concerns regarding the attendance of any pupil.
- ✓ The school will use letters and texts to promote attendance and punctuality.
- ✓ St. Manchan's will set up a Breakfast Club in the school ( September 2017)
- ✓ Where concerns arise, the class teacher or secretary monitoring attendance brings the concern to the attention of the Principal.
- ✓ The principal and class teacher assess each case individually at this point.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Attendance figures are monitored daily by the secretary on Aladdin.
- ✓ The secretary will also bring details of continued absences and patterns of absences to the attention of the class teachers, and the Principal as necessary.
- ✓ The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff.
- ✓ Pupils who arrive late in the morning will be tracked and the Principal will speak with the Parents informing them of pupil attendance history.
- ✓ Attendance will be featured as part of school assemblies.
- ✓ 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.
  
- ✓ End of year Report card will grade absences for the year.
- ✓ Extra-curricular activities, such as football, soccer, Green schools, chess and choir will be encouraged for all pupils, specifically those at risk of non-attendance.
- ✓ There will be a focus on building up positive attitudes towards school especially among disadvantaged students by making sure that all pupils are enabled to participate and be involved in all extra-curricular activities.

**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 **St. Manchan's NS**, 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:

- ✓ Attendance at meetings (Parent/Teacher, etc).
- ✓ Parent Courses.
- ✓ Attendance at Back To school Mass
- ✓ Attendance at Grandparents Day
- ✓ Attendance at concerts
- ✓ Attendance at end of year Graduation
- ✓ Attendance at individual classroom events
- ✓ Availability of teachers and Principal on yard at assembly time every morning.
- ✓ Involvement in Student Enrichment Program
- ✓ Involvement of Parents willing to share skills in the school i.e. local vet, nurse, guard etc.

**FOSTERING CONTACTS:**

Contact with the following bodies will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of students in St Manchan's NS

- ✓ NEWB.
- ✓ Mohill Community College
- ✓ Hunt N.S.
- ✓ NEPS.
- ✓ Visiting teacher for children with hearing difficulties
- ✓ Mohill Parish.
- ✓ Local GAA clubs, soccer clubs, etc.
- ✓ Leitrim Sports council
- ✓ Local Library
- ✓ An Garda Siochana
- ✓ Mohill Fire Service
- ✓ Local interest groups such as the Vincent de Paul.
- ✓ Tidy towns

- ✓ Leitrim community services.
- ✓ Leitrim County Council
- ✓ Local youth Projects
- ✓ Mohill Afterschool homework club

**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:

- ✓ Gaelic Games and soccer.
- ✓ Athletic club
- ✓ Summer programmes.

**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.

**MONITORING**

Progress will be monitored by the class teacher and at whole school level, by the SET team and the Principal. Outcomes will feed into subsequent actions and teacher planning

**REVIEW**

The policy is due for review in 2022/2023

**DATE SUBMITTED TO TUSLA**

29 SEPTEMBER 2017

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**SIGNED:**

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Principal.