



Toonagh NS

Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Toonagh NS
Address	Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Roll Number	03898U
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>Toonagh NS endeavours to enable every pupil to actively participate in all school activities. Regular attendance helps to create a stable learning environment for all pupils, and the school hopes to promote co-operation among all pupils, parents/ guardians and staff in maintaining a high level of regular attendance throughout the school year.</p> <p>While there is a strong tradition of good attendance in our school, changing social habits and patterns require us to monitor attendance and to put strategies in place to counter act poor or irregular attendance.</p> <p>The average monthly attendance for the 2022-23 school year was 94%, which we are extremely proud of. We wish to maintain or increase this figure.</p>
The aims of our Strategy for School Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage pupils to attend school regularly and punctually. • Share the promotion of school attendance amongst all in the school community. • Inform the school community of its role and responsibility in relation to school attendance • Identify pupils who may be at risk of developing school attendance problems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the school has procedures in place to promote attendance/participation. • Identify and remove, insofar as is practicable, obstacles to school attendance,
<p>How attendance will be monitored</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school attendance of individual pupils is recorded on <i>Aladdin</i> in each classroom on a daily basis by the class teacher. • When the class teacher is ever absent, the Deputy Principal records the classroom attendance. • If a pupil does not attend on a day when the school is open for instruction, his/her non-attendance will be recorded by the class teacher. The roll call is taken at 10.00am each morning. If the roll is taken any later than 10.00am an explanation for the delay must be recorded by the class teacher. Any pupil not present will be marked absent for the day. • A note or email from parents/guardians is required to explain each absence. Such notes and emails will be retained by the class teacher. Parents/ guardians must provide a note/email if a child departs early during the school day. • When a child transfers to another school, the new school informs us in writing and the child is then taken off our register.
<p>Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:</p>	<p>The average monthly attendance for the 2022-23 school year was 94%, which we are extremely proud of. We wish to maintain or increase this figure.</p> <p>The Board of Management and staff are committed to providing a positive school atmosphere which is conducive to promoting good school attendance. In this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school curriculum, insofar as is practicable, is flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child. • The school will promote development of good self-concept and self-worth in the children. • Support for pupils, who have special educational needs, are in place in accordance in line with Department of Education

	<p>guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 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 child. • Pupils with a poor attendance record will, insofar as is practicable, be supported in an effort to improve their attendance. • Parents of pupils whose non-attendance is a concern are invited to meet with the Class Teacher/Principal and are informed of the school's concerns.
<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<p>School Principal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads the review and implementation of the school's Attendance Strategy. • Regularly reference the importance of good attendance in the monthly newsletter for parents. • Regularly mention the importance of good attendance in the monthly newsletter for parents. • The monthly newsletter will also highlight the responsibility that school management in relation to pupil attendance and that it is necessary to report absences over 20 days to Tulsa. • Publish our monthly attendance percentage in the monthly newsletter. • In Term 3 distribute the school calendar for the upcoming school year. This will contain school closures throughout the year so parents can plan holidays around them. This ample notice will hopefully encourage them to respect the integrity of the school year. • Absences of 20 days or more are submitted to NEWB at the end of each quarter. • Ensure that the school register of pupils is maintained in accordance with regulations. • Inform the Education Welfare Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a pupil is not attending school regularly. - When a pupil has been absent for 20 or more days during the course of a school year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If there are particular problems in relation to a pupil's attendance. • Inform parents of a decision to contact the Education Welfare Services of concerns regarding a pupil. • Provide leadership for the creation of a school ethos that promotes good school attendance. <p>Class Teacher</p> <p>The class teacher will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the school roll-book/Aladdin in accordance with procedure. • Keep a record of explained and unexplained absences. • Contact parents in instances where absences are not explained in writing. • Inform the Principal of concerns s/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil. • Provide a classroom climate and classroom management that support participation and engagement, especially with students who may be at risk of poor attendance. • Support students on return when they have missed periods of schooling.
<p>Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)</p>	<p>Parents/guardians can promote good school attendance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring regular and punctual school attendance. • Notifying the school if their child(ren) cannot attend for any reason. • Working with the School and education welfare service to resolve any attendance problems. • Making sure their children understand that their parents support school attendance. • Discussing planned absences with the school. • Refraining, if at all possible, from taking holidays during school time. • Showing an interest in their children's school day and their children's homework. • Encouraging them to participate in school activities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praising and encouraging their children’s achievements. • Instilling in their children, a positive self-concept and a positive sense of self-worth. • Informing the school in writing of the reasons for absence from school. • Ensuring, insofar as is possible, that children’s appointments (with dentists etc), are arranged for times outside of school hours. • Contacting the school immediately, if they have concerns about absence or other related school matters. • Notifying, in writing, the school if their child/children, particularly children in junior classes, are to be collected by someone not known to the teacher. <p>Pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils have the clear responsibility to attend school regularly and punctually. • Pupils should inform staff if there is a problem that may lead to their absence. • Pupils are responsible for promptly passing on absence notes from parents to their class teacher. • Pupils are responsible for passing school correspondence to their parents, on the specified day.
<p>How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored</p>	<p>The 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 child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Roll Book/Aladdin monitoring. • Termly Attendance submissions to Tusla. • Attendance Report at every Board of Management meeting.
<p>Review process and date for review</p>	<p>This Statement of Strategy will be reviewed regularly as deemed necessary by the Staff and Board of Management.</p>

Ratification

A School Attendance Policy was first ratified by the Board of Management of Toonagh National School at its meeting on 29/09/15

Signed: Colette Crowe
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: 29/09/15

Donnchadh Kelleher
(Principal)

Update and Review

This Statement of Strategy for School Attendance was updated and reviewed by the Board of Management of Toonagh National School on 29/11/23.

Signed: Maria Doherty
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: 29/11/23

Seán Ó. D. Doherty
(Principal)