



## **Statement of Strategy for School Attendance**

### **Rationale / Vision**

This statement was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents and Board of Management of the school in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in **SN Chiaráin Naofa**, to foster an appreciation of learning among pupils and encourage regular attendance at school.

### **School Expectations**

There is a very strong tradition of good attendance in **SN Chiaráin Naofa**.

- Children are expected to attend school every day - good school attendance is crucial to each child's progress.
- Children are expected to be punctual.
- Parents are advised that under the Educational Act, 2000, a child must attend school regularly up to sixteen years of age.

### **Attendance Monitored**

- Tusla supports school attendance and follows up on children who are not attending school regularly.
- Parents are expected to complete an absenteeism note for every period of absence, notifying the teacher of the reason for a child's absence within three days of the child's return to school.
- 'Absence Notes' can be completed on Aladdin or by completed the forms located at the back of each child's homework diary.
- These notes are collected and kept on file in the school office, and used to record the number of days and the reason for the absence.
- The Principal will follow the Tusla guidelines:

- 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.

### **Positive Approach to Attendance**

- At the beginning of each school year, parents will receive the ‘School Calendar’ showing all school closures according to the standardised school year - as much as is practicable.
- The school will use Aladdin to inform parents of any other changes.

### **Strategies for Improving Attendance**

The following strategies will be employed to improve attendance:

- ✓ SN Chiaráin Naofa will promote development of good self-esteem and self-worth in its pupils.
- ✓ 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 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.
- ✓ The principal will ensure that contact is made with parents/guardians in instances where absences are not explained.
- ✓ The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff.

### **Establishment of Closer Contacts between the School and Home:**

Closer home/school relations will be fostered through:

- ✓ Parents’ Association
- ✓ Attendance at meetings (Parent/Teacher, etc).
- ✓ Attendance at school events (eg Concerts, Masses, etc).
- ✓ Regular newsletters to families.
- ✓ Open-door policy in Principal’s office for daily communication.

**Identification of Aspects and Strategies:**

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

- ✓ The identification of aspects 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 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 Policy will be reviewed as necessary.

Ratified by the Board of Management at it's meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.