

**Template for the Statement of Strategy**

**for School Attendance**

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| Name of school | Patrician Presentation Secondary School Fethard |
| Address | Rocklow Road, Fethard, Co. Tipperary |
| Roll Number | 65350S |
| The school’s vision and values in relation to attendance | As a DEIS school, attendance is an integral part of our whole-school plan. |
| The school’s high expectations around attendance | Expectations around school attendance can be seen in the following areas:   1. Comment on attendance in reports going home 2. High expectations set at morning assembly to students and to Parents throughout the year 3. Subject teachers taking the roll in each class 4. Subject teachers praise and monitor attendance 5. Attendance and retention are interlinked in the DEIS plan 6. The school has a part time HSCL and SCP Coordinator |
| How attendance will be monitored | * Roll calls at assembly (daily assembly for whole school) * Roll calls/attendance taken every class/am & after lunch * Students that are late in school after assembly roll call have to report to the school office to the attendance secretary to sign * Regular attendance meetings/communication between SCP/HSCL and attendance officer * Attendance officer printing off reports and leaving information, absenteeism concerns or trends of same with SCP/HSCL where and when necessary * NEWB TUSLA returns completed and submitted on compulsory and non-compulsory reporting periods * Student support team meetings where attendance concerns of a high nature are regularly discussed and monitored * End of year DEIS data review of attendance rates etc * End of year SCP retention plan done every May compiling annual school attendance rates, stats, monitoring etc * Attendance student targets groups formulated annually, and where attendance concerns arise they are met regularly by SCP targeted, monitored, goal setting on a consistent one- to- one meeting basis * Teachers report concerns regarding absenteeism to School management, SCP, HSCL |
| Summary of the main elements of the school’s approach to attendance:   * Target setting and targets * The whole-school approach * Promoting good attendance * Responding to poor attendance | The targets set out in our DEIS plan for 2016-2019 are as follows:   1. Increase overall school attendance by 2% (currently at a 93% rate-aim to maintain and achieve to a 95% annual attendance rate) 2. To reduce total number days lost through student absence to 6.5% Year 1, 6% Year 2 and to 5%/ 5.5% Year 3 3. To reduce chronic absenteeism rates (over 20 days missed-currently at a 22% rate) to 20% year 1, 18% Year 2 and 17% Year 3 4. To increase and promote accountability of school absenteeism and awareness of same   The whole-school approach comprises of the following:   1. Roll calls for all class groups for all periods, phone calls/text message from office to parents when students absent or absenteeism trend concerns, absenteeism notes etc 2. Attendance monitoring and tracking of whole school and target group (who missed over 20 days in previous school year)   Regular attendance team meetings- Invite EWO to these meetings on a termly/when needs basis. Involve and consult with student body on attendance issues, targets and initiatives   1. To enlist teachers support in promoting attendance. 2. JCSP Outings and Rewards. Extra- curricular activities targeted at both Junior and Senior students to be focused on student’s interests and hobbies. The aim is to engage them in activities that give them a sense of belonging and pride in the school community.   ***Promoting Good Attendance***   1. Attendance initiatives and awards for attendance/ punctuality. Attendance initiatives during problem trend weeks/months ie: Jan/May etc 2. Attendance promotion- highlight initiatives and general attendance promotion posters around the school all year round to raise awareness ie; quotes “Miss school-Miss out”, announcements etc 3. JCSP postcards home for positive attendance 4. Rewards for attending and participating homework club Strategies to raise awareness to parents and students of the negative effect of absenteeism on their academic achievement. Phone call to parents with students reaches 10 days absent without evidence of a medical issue. Parents invited to attend meeting in school if 20 days absent. 5. Attendance specific targeted group or one to ones, monitoring and goal setting. Attendance tracking, monitoring and goal setting within class groups.   **Responding to Poor Attendance**   1. Phone call to parents with students reaches 10 days absent without evidence of a medical issue. Parents invited to attend meeting in school if 20 days absent. 2. HSCL home visits to families to support and promote attendance. 3. Students will be met on a one-ton-one basis by the SCP Co-ordinator 4. If absenteeism continues, the school will engage the EWO. |
| School roles in relation to attendance | 1. Class teachers take attendance in the mornings 2. All subject teachers take the roll every class 3. Attendance secretary and Deputy Principal check attendance and notes of absenteeism every day 4. Attendance issues raised at weekly Care Meeting 5. Principal contacts home re attendance 6. HSCL officer visits homes 7. School Completion Co-ordinator works with targeted students and organises seminars for students in relation to attendance or one-to-one basis. |
| Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups) | A recent DES Inspection on our DEIS partnership highlighted the following:   * A comprehensive, systematic, wide-ranging approach in relation to partnership with parents and others is evident. Positive interventions to promote partnership, particularly through the work of the HSCL co-ordinator, include home visits, information meetings, courses for parents, and community-linked meetings with external bodies such as the local youth club co-ordinator, Barnardos, and the EWO * Parent interviews and questionnaires showed good awareness of what is happening in the school. A parent focus group spoke very positively of the proactive communication and consultation processes and the role of the senior management, teachers, the HSCL and SCP in relation to support for both parents and students. * SMART targets were set in relation to attendance at parent teacher meetings and cognisance was taken of particular cohorts of students when the achievement of the targets was reviewed. * Partnership with others and in particular with the local community has been enhanced through the DEIS plan, particularly during the last year. General targets are set in this area, which have been adjusted following the most recent review of the plan. This is good practice. |
| How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored | 1. Attendance team meetings will be held regularly to monitor and discuss students who are frequently absent. 2. DEIS committee to meet regularly to review and provide feedback on strategies. 3. Quantitative data will be collated regularly regarding school attendance – attendance secretary. 4. Ensuring every student is involved in some extra-curricular activity. |
| Review process and date for review | Ongoing review, and an annual review in May every year. |
| Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management | Our DEIS plan for which attendance is a big part was ratified by the Board of Management on June 28th 2017, and this Statement of Strategy was approved on November 13th 2017 |
| Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla | November 28th 2017 |