

St. Patrick's N.S.

Strangsmills, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland. X91 KP57

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[Roll no. 16875g](http://www.strangsmillsns.ie)

Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	St. Patrick's NS
Address	Strangsmills, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny.
Roll Number	16875G
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>St. Patrick's NS is committed to providing a learning environment that will foster all children's learning and encourage them to attend school every day the school is open unless they have a valid reason such as illness. We encourage the active learning of each child at his/her own pace and to his/her full potential. We strive to provide a well ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupil are identified and addressed. St. Patrick's NS promotes excellence in teaching and learning.</p> <p>Each child's attendance is viewed relative to his/her home situation and a holistic approach to improving attendance will be implemented. We strive to understand any barriers to attendance which families may face and aim to support pupil engagement and attendance in this way.</p>
The school's high expectations around attendance	In St. Patrick's NS, we expect that pupils attend school everyday unless they have a valid reason such as illness. In so far as possible, we aim for full attendance from our pupils.
How attendance will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We aim to provide a warm, welcoming and supportive learning environment for our pupils where they are valued and respected and in which provision is made for individual learning needs.• Teachers will monitor attendance in their classrooms and report concerns to the Principal.• Aladdin and POD are our primary resources for monitoring attendance.• When a child returns to school following an absence they will receive a green absence report slip which their parents/guardians will complete and sign indicating the reason for absence.• Class teachers will retain all notes until the end of the school year when they are filed by the secretary in the office.• Class teachers are vigilant to patterns of absenteeism and will refer concerns to the principal who will contact the child's parents to ascertain the reason for absences.

<p>Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting and targets • The whole-school approach • Promoting good attendance • Responding to poor attendance 	<p>Target Setting and Targets</p> <p>To improve attendance rates from 95% to 96%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers will record reasons for absence on Aladdin and retain notes from parents and medical certificates in a file in their classroom. • All teachers will record late arrivers and early leavers on Aladdin. • To review targets annually and facilitate continued good practice. <p>The Whole School Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers will promote good attendance and monitor absences in their classrooms. • We will highlight good attendance at the end of each term: Christmas, Easter and Summer. The classroom teacher will give children with no absences a certificate. • Parents/Guardians will receive a copy of the school calendar in June for the following school year. Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to take holidays during planned school closures. • We encourage pupils and parents/guardians to arrive in school punctually. <p>Promoting good attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will publically and positively reward children who have excellent attendance each term. • Teachers will highlight the importance of good attendance. • Teachers will positively encourage children with poor attendance to attend more regularly. • We will promote good attendance through communication with parents at parent teacher meetings, through our newsletter, induction/open nights and school booklet etc. <p>Responding to poor attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters are mailed to parents when their child has missed 15 days. • In accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000 we report all absences over 20 days at the end of each school term. • Where a child has a substantial amount of unexplained absences or where we have cause for concern in relation to absenteeism cases are referred to the EWO. • Our class teachers and SET team seek to ensure that children who may be experiencing learning difficulties are actively supported and encouraged with appropriate teaching. Homework is tailored to the individual needs of these pupils.
<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine O'Connor the principal and Ciara Byrne deputy principal have overall responsibility for school attendance. • The attendance rate of each year is reported to the BOM at the end of the school year. • In -school management will lead the review of

	<p>and the implementation of the school's attendance strategy and closely monitor progress and evaluation.</p> <p>Teachers and Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers monitor attendance and punctuality of pupils by ensuring that attendance is recorded at 10:00am. • Teachers will support pupils on their return when they have missed periods of schooling.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/Guardians will receive a copy of the school calendar in June for the following school year. Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to take holidays during planned school closures. • We encourage pupils and parents/guardians to arrive in school punctually. • When a child returns to school following an absence they will receive a green absence report slip which their parents/guardians will complete and sign indicating the reason for absence. • Teacher will record unexplained absences on Aladdin as unexplained. • Pupils who take holidays during term time will be marked absent. • Children must give their parents the green absence slip and parents are responsible for returning it to the teacher promptly.
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statement will be reviewed by the whole staff during Croke Park planning time. • It will be monitored directly by the Principal and Deputy Principal.
Review process and date for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy will be reviewed and updated every year. Next review will be in October 2020.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th September 2019
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	