



## School Attendance Policy

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The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríd recognises the vital link between a regular and punctual school attendance and pupil progress.

### **Research highlights the following:**

- The positive impact of high levels of attendance on teaching and learning (McCoy et al, 2014; Claes et al, 2009);
- The established links between good attendance, student engagement and staying at school to complete the Senior Cycle (Smyth, 1999; McCoy et al, 2007, Byrne & Smith, 2010);
- The well-established impact of poor attendance on a student's educational outcomes (McCoy et al, 2007);
- The research evidence that even when they stay at school to Leaving Certificate, those students with poor attendance do less well in exams and are less likely to go onto further study (McCoy et al, 2007);
- The impact of poor attendance on wider aspects of a student's life, such as weak peer relationships, risks of engagement in anti-social activity and poor family relationships (Hibbett and Fogelman, 1990; Carroll, 2011);
- The pressures for students and their teachers when students miss out on classes and key parts of the curriculum (Lupton, 2004; Wilson, et al 2008).

The Board of Management recognises that poor attendance/absenteeism is of a complex matter. To this end the Board of Management will view each child in the context of her family and will endeavour to understand the barriers faced by the student. Scoil Naomh Bríd will adopt a holistic approach, supports and interventions insofar as is practicable will be put in place to enable students to engage, participate and attend.

The aims of the attendance policy in Scoil Naomh Bríd are to:

- (1) Encourage pupils to attend school regularly and punctually.
- (2) Share the promotion of school attendance amongst all in the school community.
- (3) Inform the school community of its role and responsibility as outlined in the Education (Welfare) Act.
- (4) Identify pupils who may be at risk of developing school attendance problems.
- (5) Ensure that the school has procedures in place to promote attendance/participation.
- (6) Develop, subject to available resources, links between the school and the families of children who may be at risk of developing attendance problems.
- (7) Identify and remove, insofar as is practicable, obstacles to school attendance

# Scoil Naomh Bríd



The school will ensure that:

- The importance of school attendance is promoted throughout the school.
- Pupils are registered accurately and efficiently.
- Pupil attendance is recorded daily.
- Parents or guardians are contacted when reasons for absences are unknown or have not been communicated.
- Pupil attendance and lateness is monitored.
- Good attendance and improvement in attendance is rewarded.
- A culture where every child feels valued, trusted and respected is promoted throughout the school.
- School attendance statistics are reported as appropriate to:
  - Tusla: The Child and Family Agency
  - The Education Welfare Officer.
  - The Board of Management.

## **PUNCTUALITY:**

School is open from 9.10a.m. and children are required to be in their classrooms not later than this. All pupils and teachers are expected to be on time. The school will contact Parents/Guardians in the event of pupils being consistently late with a view to working together to improve punctuality.. The Principal is obliged under The Education Act, to report children who are persistently late, to Tusla - Child and Family Agency.

## **GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS:**

Section [(21) (9)] of the Act states that: “a pupil’s absence can only be authorised by the Principal when the child is involved in activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved.” The school Principal cannot authorise a child’s absence for holidays during school time. However, it is essential that Parents inform the school of such arrangements.

Subject to the restriction of the Data Protection Act, attendance, behaviour and academic records of children who transfer to another primary school will be passed to the Principal of the school, by post, as soon as we receive written notification of transfer. Attendance, behaviour and academic records of pupils transferring to a second level school will be sent to the school, if requested, once enrolment has been confirmed.

The next section of our school policy sets out the Statement of Strategy for Attendance agreed by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríd to encourage, promote and support a full and punctual attendance.