

Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Goatstown ETSS
Address	Churchtown Road Upper, D14 Y563
Roll Number	68366C
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	That all students will want to come to school because they feel happy and safe in school and because they enjoy learning there.
The school's high expectations around attendance	<p>As a new school, we are monitoring our attendance closely. We aim to have an attendance rate of over 95% for most students.</p> <p>There is clearly communicated high expectation around attendance at school.</p> <p>Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their child is in school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for them not to attend. (Section 17 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.</p>
How attendance will be monitored	<p>VSWare is used to take attendance in the morning during first period and at the start of every class during the school day.</p> <p>The school app is used by parents/ guardians to notify the school of approved lates and or absences.</p> <p>A text goes out to parents/ guardians after period two each day where a child is absent/ late and where no excuse has been forwarded to the school via the app.</p> <p>The School Administrator updates attendance on VSWare throughout the day including those with authorised 'early departures.'</p>

	<p>If an excuse has not been received the School Administrator sends an email at the end of the day to the Tutor and cc the Year Co-ordinator with the name(s) of student(s) absent or late without an excuse.</p> <p>The following day, the Tutor then sends an email home asking for a reason for absence/late and cc Year Coordinator. If tutor is unable to send email that day, the Year Coordinator will send the email.</p> <p>At a weekly Student Support Team (SST), attendance issues may be discussed if they are a cause of concern.</p> <p>In the weekly meeting between Year Coordinators, specific attendance issues may be addressed if they do not come under the remit of the SST.</p> <p>The school will contact the EWO if a child is suspended for six days or more or if they are expelled</p>
<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>Staff meet students each morning with a smile and a 'good morning.'</p> <p>There are awards for exemplary attendance each term.</p> <p>Parents, carers, guardians receive a text message if their child has an unexplained absence.</p> <p>School reports identify the number of days absent each term.</p> <p>We respond quickly to attendance issues and keep excellent records.</p> <p>We write to parents when their child has reached 15 days absent to highlight the issue, seek engagement and to highlight the requirement that the school inform TUSLA after 20 days absence.</p>

	<p>We engage with relevant support services such as TUSLA’s Educational Welfare Officer as appropriate.</p> <p>The Student Support Team will intervene to support students who are absent from school for a prolonged period or for students who have accumulated 20 days or more absence in a year or for students who have any unexplained absences.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, the school may consider the implementation of measures such as a reduced timetable in consultation with relevant support services and parents/ guardians to support students who are struggling to attend school. This is undertaken on a short-term basis and cognisant of Circular 0047/2021</p>
<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<p>The Principal and Deputy Principal monitor the overall strategy.</p> <p>School refusal is dealt with by the Principal/ Deputy Principal/ASN Coordinator/ Year Coordinators/ Clan Tutors/ Autism Support Programme staff/ Student Support Team as appropriate.</p> <p>Class Tutors monitor attendance and relay concerns to year coordinators if necessary.</p> <p>Using a continuum of referral, attendance and lateness are dealt with by the class tutor, year coordinator and Deputy Principal with referral to the Student Support Team as required.</p>
<p>Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)</p>	<p>We are in the process of building these relationships.</p>
<p>How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored</p>	<p>By the Principal and Deputy Principal on a termly basis.</p>

Review process and date for review	Clan Tutors, Student Support Team and School Management review process. Date for next review: December 2022.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	December 15 th , 2021
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	December 16 th , 2021