

SCOIL BHAILE AN TALLÁNAIGH

DÚN DEALGAN, CONDAE LÚ.



Attendance Strategies

In Tallanstown NS, we value the individuality of all our children and respect their right to access all areas of learning. We work to enable them to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes that are necessary for their self-fulfillment and their development into active and responsible adults.

Tallanstown NS decided to review its attendance strategies because:

- It is a priority area identified by staff, including HSCL Teacher
- It is a requirement under Education Welfare Act 2000
- The school needs to encourage pupils to be in attendance

Aims

In Tallanstown NS we aim:

- To foster an appreciation of learning
- To raise awareness of the importance of school attendance
- To identify pupils at risk of early school leaving
- To enhance the learning environment where children can make progress in all aspects of their development
- To promote positive attitudes to learning
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner that encourages pupils to attend school
- To comply with requirements under Education Welfare Act 2000/Guidelines from NEWB.

Strategies to encourage good attendance

- **Caring Environment** - [Insert School Name], at all times, aims to ensure that children are taught in a safe secure and caring environment where their intellectual, physical and spiritual development are catered for
- We try to create a welcoming environment for pupils and parents. Teachers consistently try to encourage good attendance in their respective classrooms
- **Special Needs** – pupils needing support are identified as early as possible and the appropriate support systems put into place. We emphasise positive achievements and do all we can to enhance self-esteem
- **Homework Support** – The homework club exists to support those pupils whose home circumstances dictate that there is neither the environment conducive to completing homework nor the expertise at home to help with homework. Having completed homework removes a possible excuse for avoiding attending school

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- **Rewards** - the points system is used to reward attendance, and improving attendance, on a weekly basis. Certificates are issued for perfect and improved attendance, both at Christmas and at the end of the school year
- **Lunches** - A scheme is in place to provide all children with a piece of fruit daily. Emergency breakfasts and lunches are available from the parents' room when required. These measures enhance the school experience for those children who might otherwise be at risk of poor attendance.

Communication

- **Parental Support** - It is the policy of [Insert School Name] to encourage and maintain open communication between home and school and to encourage parents in their role as primary educators of their children. The HSCL co-ordinator is always available to parents either on the school premises or to visit parents in their homes. The Principal and teachers are likewise available, on an appointment basis, to meet parents.
- Attendance is one of the issues addressed at meetings for new parents when their child is enrolled in [Insert School Name]
- It is also covered in the information pack given to all parents of Junior Infant children
- At the beginning of each school year, Junior Infant teachers hold a general meeting of parents and one of the issues addressed is that of the importance of regular school attendance among a range of other topics
- Parents are made aware of the requirements of the Education Welfare Act at pre-enrollment information meetings. Each family is given a copy of the information leaflet - **Don't Let Your Child Miss Out** (Leaflet for parents NEWB 2004) This leaflet outlines
 1. The importance of regular attendance
 2. Parental obligations in relation to attendance under the Education Welfare Act
 3. Advice to parents on what they can do to help children attend school regularly.

Parents are reminded regularly of the importance of good attendance (i.e. newsletters, parent/teacher meetings etc.). An awareness of the importance of good attendance by the children, is kept to the forefront in the classroom and at assemblies.

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School Records

A roll call is taken every day and should a child be absent, they are required to have an explanatory note from their parents. This may be recorded in the home school diary. The Education and Welfare act 'obliges the parents of an absent child to notify the school of the cause of absence not later than the third day of absence'. Notes or record of non- attendances are duly dated and need to be kept.

- When a child has accumulated 10 days of absence the teacher informs the HSCL coordinator (in writing, please). School management will offer the services of the HCSL coordinator to the family. A letter is sent to the parent, which may request a meeting with the teacher
- When a child has missed 20 days, the absence is reported to the EWO for the county and to Education Welfare Board as required by the Education Welfare Act. If the absenteeism persists, the school requests active intervention from the EWO.