

*ScoilMhuirenanGrást,
BéalGuala,
Co. Chorcaí.*



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Roll No: 19672H

Attendance Strategy Statement

An Attendance Strategy statement was drawn up on 2011 in compliance with the requirements of the Education Welfare (2000) Act. This policy document was presented in draft form at a staff meeting on 6th October 2011 and at a Board of Management meeting on 10th October 2011.

Rationale

Section 22 of the Education Welfare (2000) Act requires that a board of management prepare and submit to the Education Welfare Board, a statement of the strategies and measures it proposes to adopt for the purposes of fostering an appreciation of learning among students and encouraging regular attendance at the school. All members of the ScoilMhuirenanGrast community (students, parents, teachers, ancillary staff and visitors to the school), are included within the scope of this document.

ScoilMhuirenanGrast is committed to providing a caring learning environment which facilitates the nurturing of each pupil's full educational potential. Communication between home and school is a vital ingredient in this education process. Our school aims to be a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of its community. This community is defined as the pupils, parents, teachers, ancillary staff and visitors to the school. Our school is open to positive reflections of diversity in its staff and pupil population.

Aims

- to foster an appreciation of learning
- to raise awareness of the importance of regular school attendance
- to enhance the learning environment
- to promote positive attitudes to learning
- to comply with the requirements of the Education Welfare (2000) Act

Defining and Recording Attendance and Non-Attendance

Each child, to whom the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 applies is obliged by law to attend school every day on which the school is in operation unless there is a reasonable excuse for not attending.

The rolls are marked each morning from 10.20 a.m. onwards.

Notes from parents with regard to non-attendance of their children are kept by the class teacher. (A note in the Homework Journal is not sufficient).

When it is necessary for a pupil to leave school early, a note must be sent to the class teacher or permission sought from Principal or Deputy Principal. Notes are retained until child returns to school. Parents/ guardians are asked to call personally to the classroom to collect the child. Any person collecting a child on behalf of the parent/guardian should present written authorisation with a telephone contact number.

Whole School Strategies to promote attendance

The School Environment

The school environment is welcoming and child-friendly.

Early intervention

At the induction meeting for parents of new pupils, the principal emphasises the importance of regular attendance.

Communication

Details of school events and policies are contained on the school website, www.belgoolyns.scoilnet.ie

Parents are given details of the school calendar as soon as possible in the year prior to the one to which it relates. Parents are advised to arrange family outings and holidays with the official school closings in mind.

Parents are advised that the school authorities are obliged to notify the National Education Welfare Officer when a child is absent for more than 20 days in a school year.

Parents are contacted in writing if there is a concern with regard to their child's attendance, (i.e. 15 days or more).
If school-based strategies fail to improve a pupil's attendance, the National Education Welfare Board officer is contacted.
The school report to parents contains details of attendance and non-attendance.

Procedures in relation to the Removal of a Pupil from the Register/ Transfer to or from another school

The principal removes a pupil from the register when notice has been received from another school to which the pupil has transferred.

The school sends details of attendance / support received / school reports to the school to which the pupil has transferred. When a pupil transfers to our school, details of attendance etc are sought from his previous school. Details with regard to suspensions and/or expulsions are contained in the School's Code of Behaviour.

Annual Report

Details with regard to school attendance are furnished to the NEWB on 4 occasions during the year, and an overall report on attendance is submitted at the end of the school year.

Success Criteria

The effectiveness of the Attendance Strategy policy will be reviewed at the end of each school year, when composite figures for attendance and non-attendance are compiled.

Roles and Responsibilities

The importance of regular school attendance is such that all members of our school community have roles to play in ensuring that all possible strategies are utilised to ensure that pupils attend school on a regular basis. Overall responsibility for the co-ordination and monitoring of the various implementation strategies rests with the Principal, but every member of the school community is involved in the implementation of this policy.

Class Teacher

The class roll is kept accurately and concerns with regard to non-attendance are brought to the attention of the Principal
Notes with regard to non-attendance are kept on file for 1 school year

Implementation Date

This statement will apply from 4th November 2011
It will be reviewed in October 2012

Ratification

Board of Management - November 2011