



Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Scoil Mhuire gan Smál (B)
Address	School Ave., Glasheen, Co. Cork
Roll Number	17993R
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>Glasheen Boys' School wants every pupil to participate fully in all aspects of school life. Regular attendance is central to this.</p> <p>In Glasheen B.N.S., we aim to care holistically for every child and to promote co-operation between pupils, parents and staff.</p> <p>A whole school approach to regular school attendance is essential.</p>
The school's high expectations around attendance	<p>Glasheen Boys' National School aims to build and maintain a culture of high expectations amongst all members of the school community, for the pupil's learning, participation and attendance. Glasheen B.N.S actively seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase awareness of the importance of school attendance.• Identify pupils at risk of becoming early school leavers.• Promote a positive learning environment.• Promote and foster positive attitudes to life-long learning.• Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.
How attendance will be monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An accurate record of student's attendance at school is kept on a daily basis. Class Teachers maintain accurate class rolls and take responsibility for monitoring student absences within their class. The school attendance of each individual student is recorded daily on the digital roll book. In addition to this each student is registered on POD along with their details.• If a pupil does not attend school on a day when the school is open for instruction his non-attendance is recorded. The roll book may not be altered once it has been filled in. This is monitored regularly to identify children who are at risk of poor school attendance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation for all school absences is required from parents/guardians in the form of a written note or a phone call to the school office. • Late arrivals and early departures are recorded in the school office on an on-going basis. • School attendance records are issued to parents/guardians in writing, as part of the end of year report. • Pupils whose non-attendance is a concern are contacted by the Class Teacher, H.S.C.L Co-ordinator or Principal. • Written notification is made to the EWO in all cases where a pupil has missed 20 or more days within the school year.
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Increase in annual attendance • Board of Management, Staff and Parents/Guardians awareness of their legal obligations under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. • Keep school community informed of the importance of good school attendance through Parent Teacher Meetings, Staff Meetings, School Website, Social Media and School Newsletters. • Early identification of poor school attendance is essential, so a team approach by, SCP worker, HSCL Co-ordinator, Class Teacher and School Principal is adopted. Those at risk are the children who are absent for more than five days in a 20 day period, and those students who are absent without and explanatory note or phone call. Contact is initially made by the class teacher. Contact is then made as appropriate by the SCP Worker, HSCL Co-ordinator or Principal. <p>PROMOTING GOOD ATTENDANCE / WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glasheen B.N.S endeavours to create a safe, bright, welcoming, interesting environment for all pupils and parents. A good attitude to attendance is encouraged and fostered in Junior and Senior Infants to ensure a good pattern has been established by first class. • Parents/Guardians are consulted in drafting and reviewing policies with the aim of promoting co-operation and communication among the school community. • The school calendar is communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year. It is hoped that this approach will enable parents/guardians to plan around school closures. • Cork City Council awards annual Full Attendance

	<p>Certificates during the school year. These certificates are awarded to the children at a school assembly to acknowledge their efforts and to encourage other pupils to aim for this success. Children with Improved Attendance are all awarded certificates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School initiatives and class incentives are used to encourage good attendance and punctuality. • Provision of a range of pre-school and after school activities, including; supervision, Breakfast Club and Homework Club are in operation in Glasheen B.N.S to ensure that pupils who may be reluctant to come to school are encouraged to do so. • School Completion Programme is in operation in Glasheen B.N.S., this offers in-school and after-school activities. School Completion Transition Programme takes place annually for 6th class pupils, in order to ease the transition of pupils to second level. <p>RESPONDING TO POOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacting parents/guardians on an informal basis if a child is absent regularly. • Ensuring an explanation is provided for all absences. • In the event of poor attendance the school will contact the parents/guardians to try to identify and resolve any barriers to attendance. • Home Visit made to families at risk of poor school attendance by HSCL and/or SCP Worker to offer support and encouragement. • Under section 21 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 the School is obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer if a child is absent for more than 20 days in any school year, or if the child does not attend regularly. • After all reasonable efforts have been made by the NEWB to consult with the child's parents/guardian and the Principal, the EWO may serve a 'School Attendance Notice' on any parent whom it is concluded is failing or neglecting to cause the child to attend school. • Five annual reports are sent by the school to the NEWB with reasons for absences of pupils with poor attendance.
School roles in relation to attendance	<p>Principal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the school register of pupils is maintained in accordance with regulations. • Inform the Education Welfare officer if a pupil is not attending school regularly or when a pupil has been absent for 20 or more days within the school year. • Inform parents/guardians of a decision to contact the EWO of concerns regarding a pupil.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff. <p>Class Teachers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the school digital roll book in accordance with procedure Keep a record of explained and unexplained absences. Encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually. Inform the Principal of concerns s/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil. <p>HSCL will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor pupil attendance and keep informed of pupils whose attendance is poor. Liaise with principal and Class Teachers regarding pupils at risk of poor attendance. Make contact with families in cases of poor school attendance. Promote good attendance and punctuality. <p>School Secretary will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor late arrivals and early departures of pupils and ensure a written record is kept <p>SCP Workers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Class Teachers, Principal and HSCL to engage with families of pupils with poor attendance. Keep the school informed of pupil attendance at various after-school activities.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	<p>Partnership and communication is essential to fostering and maintaining good school attendance. Communication in relation to good school attendance is essential with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Parent Body Parents' Association All Pupils All Staff HSCL Co-ordinator School Completion Workers Education Welfare officer Board of Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer to Another School <p>Under Section 20 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, the Principal of the child's current school must notify the principal of the child's previous school that the child is now registered in their school. When the Principal of this school receives notification that a child has registered elsewhere, s/he will inform the principal of any difficulties or issues in relation to the child's attendance. This may</p>

	<p>also apply to second level transfer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Completion Programme Transition Programme is run annually for sixth class pupils. Sixth Class pupils also have the opportunity to participate in ‘Spend a Day as a First Year’ programmes in various local secondary schools. • Glasheen B.N.S has links with many community based organisations such as the local football and hurling Club, Library, Family Resource Centre, and Youth Groups, to ensure that pupils and parents are supported and good school attendance is fostered and maintained.
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	Statement of Strategy for School Attendance will be brought to the attention of all staff members at the beginning of the school year to ensure awareness and compliance. It will be reviewed annually. The school will liaise with relevant bodies and engage with relevant services and legislation to ensure that all items are in accordance with best practise.
Review process and date for review	A review / update of Attendance Policy and Strategy will take place each school year. Staff, parents and pupils will be consulted during the review. Any changes will be notified to the Board of Management for ratification.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	2nd October 2017
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	2nd October 2017