

Scoil Naomh Bríd,
Ardaghy,
Omeath,
Co. Louth
A91 DA37
www.snbridardaghy.ie
Uimhir Rolla: 17965M



Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Introduction

Scoil Naomh Bríd recognises that regular school attendance is essential for pupils' educational progress, social development, and overall wellbeing. The school is committed to promoting positive attendance and addressing attendance concerns in a fair, supportive, and timely manner.

This Statement of Strategy for School Attendance has been developed in accordance with:

- The **Education (Welfare) Act, 2000**
- **TUSLA – Child and Family Agency** guidance (2015)
- The school's **Code of Behaviour, Child Safeguarding Statement**, and related policies.

This strategy reflects a **preventative, whole-school approach**, with targeted intervention where attendance difficulties arise.

Vision and Values

To create a positive school culture where attendance is valued and where pupils feel motivated, supported, and encouraged to attend school regularly.

Aims

- To promote regular and punctual attendance among all pupils.
- To identify and respond early to emerging attendance concerns.
- To work in partnership with parents/guardians.

- To meet the school's statutory obligations in relation to attendance.

Legal and Policy Framework

In accordance with the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, Scoil Naomh Bríd will:

- Maintain an accurate daily attendance register.
- Record and monitor reasons for pupil absences.
- Report pupils who are absent for 20 days or more in a school year to TUSLA.
- Cooperate with the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) where necessary.

The School's Expectations around Attendance

- Supervision is provided from 9:10am and the school days begins at 9:20am. All pupils and staff are expected to be on time.
- All pupil absences from school (full day or partial absences) must be explained in writing by parents/guardians.
- A record of children frequently arriving late to school will be maintained through the Aladdin system. If a child is arriving late (after 9:20am) a written explanation must be provided.
- If a child is being collected early from school for an appointment (or other reason), their class teacher must be notified. Early departures can add up to significant curriculum time lost at school.
- We ask that, where possible, parents DO NOT take their children on term-time holidays.

Target setting/Targets

1. To increase the number of explained absences.
2. To decrease the number of pupils who often arrive late to school.
3. To increase the *Tier 1 attendance* (attending 95% or more of the time) by 20% of pupils.
4. To reduce the *Tier 2 attendance* (attending 90-95% of the time) to less than 15% of pupils.
5. To reduce the *Tier 3 attendance* (attending less than 90% of the time) to less than 5% of pupils.

The whole school approach

The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríd is committed to providing a positive school atmosphere that encourages good school attendance by:

- Supporting pupils with special educational needs as per Department of Education and Youth guidelines.

- Communicating internally to inform teachers of the individual needs of pupils.
- Using a reward system to celebrate good attendance. Attendance certificates and small prizes are awarded at the end of the school term/year.
- Seeking the assistance of the Education Welfare Officer (TESS) if necessary.
- Supporting pupils with poor attendance to improve their attendance, where possible.
- Class teachers monitoring attendance and highlighting concerns to the Principal regarding the absence of a child/children.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management

- Approves and reviews the Statement of Strategy for School Attendance.
- Ensures the school complies with legislative requirements.

Principal

- Oversees the implementation of this strategy.
- Monitors attendance data and identifies patterns of concern.
- Liaises with TUSLA and the EWO as required.

Class Teachers

- Record attendance accurately on a daily basis.
- Promote positive attendance within the classroom.
- Bring concerns regarding attendance to the attention of the Principal.

Parents/Guardians

- Ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually.
- Inform the school of absences and provide explanations.
- Engage constructively with the school if attendance issues arise.
- Be aware of the negative effect of poor attendance on pupils' individual achievement and potentially the resulting impact on the whole class.

Pupils

- Attend school regularly.
- Participate positively in school life.

Promoting Positive Attendance

Scoil Naomh Bríd promotes attendance by:

- Providing a **safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning environment**.
- Encouraging positive relationships between staff and pupils.
- Communicating clear expectations regarding attendance.
- Acknowledging good attendance and punctuality, where appropriate.
- Integrating attendance awareness into **SPHE** and school activities.

Monitoring Attendance

- Attendance is recorded daily using the official school roll (Aladdin).
- Attendance data is reviewed regularly by the Principal.
- Patterns such as frequent absences, late arrivals, or term-time holidays are monitored.

Responding to Attendance Concerns

In line with TUSLA guidance, the school uses a **graduated and proportionate approach**:

Stage 1 – Early Concern

- Informal contact with parents/guardians e.g. phone calls, letters, inviting parents for discussion of non-attendance and parent's responsibilities.
- Discussion focused on understanding and addressing the issue.

Stage 2 – Ongoing Concern

- Parents will be notified when their child misses 15, 20, more days of school.
- Formal meeting with parents/guardians.
- Agreement on strategies to improve attendance and targets to be set in collaboration with parents.
- Dialogue with pupils (where appropriate).
- The staff will endeavour to address underlying reasons for non-attendance e.g. bullying, sickness, curriculum etc.

Stage 3 – Persistent Absence

- Use of extra-curricular activities that may motivate pupils and encourage attendance.
- Build links to community and youth groups e.g. church groups, disability organisations, support/welfare organisations which may be able to offer support.

- Referral to support agencies e.g. **HSE, CAMHS, TUSLA Educational Welfare Services.**
- Ongoing cooperation with the Educational Welfare Officer.

The school recognises that attendance difficulties may arise due to a range of factors and prioritises **supportive engagement** at all times.

Partnership Arrangements

Contact with the following organisations will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of pupils in Scoil Naomh Bríd:

- N.E.W.B. (National Education Welfare Board)
- Other schools in the parish (Scoil Naomh Lorcan, St. Oliver's N.S.)
- N.E.P.S.
- Local clubs/organisations (e.g. Cuchullain Gaels G.F.C., Dolmen Centre)
- Community Gardaí

Attendance, behaviour and academic records of pupils transferring to a secondary school or to another primary school will be sent to the school if requested, once enrolment has been confirmed.

Attendance, behaviour and academic records of pupils who transfer from another primary school will be sought directly from the previous school.

Communication with Parents

- Parents are informed of attendance expectations at enrolment.
- Attendance matters are communicated respectfully and promptly.
- Attendance information is shared through school reports and meetings.

Recording, Reporting, and Data Protection

- Written explanations are required for all absences.
- Absences of **20 days or more** are reported to TUSLA as required.
- Attendance records are retained securely in compliance with **GDPR**.

Review and Evaluation

This Statement of Strategy for School Attendance will be:

- Reviewed every 2 years by the Board of Management.
- Informed by attendance data and school experience.
- Updated in line with changes to legislation or TUSLA guidance.

Ratification

This Statement of Strategy for School Attendance was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríd on **11th February 2026**.



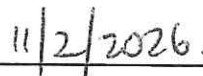
Chairperson
Board of Management



Date



Principal



Date

Next review due: February 2028