



Muslim National School

Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave

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Attendance Strategies

In the Muslim National School, 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.

The Muslim National School decided to review its attendance strategies because:

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

Aims

In the Muslim National School 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** – the Muslim National School, 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

Communication

- **Parental Support** - It is the policy of the Muslim National School to encourage and maintain open communication between home and school and to encourage parents in their role as primary educators of their children. The Principal and teachers are 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 the Muslim National School

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

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. 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 records of non- attendances are duly dated and need to be kept.

- When a child has missed 20 days, the absence is reported to the EWO for the county and to the Education Welfare Board as required by the Education Welfare Act. If the absenteeism persists, the school requests active intervention from the EWO.

