



Name of school	Ransboro NS
Address	Knocknahur Sligo
Roll Number	19635b
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	Ransboro National School's vision is to promote the full and harmonious development of all pupils: cognitive, intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual. It aims to promote positive school experiences with high attendance levels. The school's vision is to ensure that all pupils experience success. Ransboro School aims to work together with parents and guardians to foster positive attitudes to regular school attendance and learning.
The school's high expectations around attendance	Ransboro school recognises that consistent attendance is a vital element in education. Targeting good attendance is part of our school action plan. Attendance is therefore an area of high priority for the school and we endeavour to support and foster good attendance patterns from a young age. The school will work closely with all partners to ensure that the attendance rate within the school will rise from 93.33% to 95% every year. The school ensures that school staff and families are informed and assisted in relation to attendance matters at our school
How attendance will be monitored	All class teachers take a daily roll call which is recorded on the school's data software programme 'Aladdin'. If a child does not attend on a day when the school is open, their absence will be recorded by the class teacher on the Aladdin system. If the teacher has been made aware of the reason for absence, this is also recorded on the Aladdin system.

If a teacher is concerned about student absences, they alert relevant staff; i.e. the Deputy Principal or Principal. The roll call is taken at 10.00 each morning. The annual attendance of each child is recorded by Aladdin and is printed in the end of year school reports.

Late arrivals and early departures are discouraged unless absolutely necessary. All late arrivals will be recorded on the Aladdin system.

For early departures, a parent/carer must sign their child out of school at the school reception.

How Punctuality is Monitored.

School begins at 9.20am for all children. All children and staff members are expected to be on time.

All children arriving late to school (anytime after 10.00am) will be recorded on the Aladdin system. This will be inputted by the class teacher on their respective Aladdin system.

The school will contact parents/carers in the event of children being consistently late.

The school principal is obliged, under the Education Welfare Act, to report children who are persistently late to TUSLA Child and Family Agency.

Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:

Target setting and targets

Our annual attendance in the school year 2016/2017 was 93.33% . We aim to increase our attendance to at least 95%.

In the 2016/2017 school year, 18 pupils missed 20 days or more. We aim to reduce this figure by 10%.

We aim to improve the attendance of poor attenders by sending details of number of absences and reasons given on a quarterly basis.

• The Whole school Approach

At Ransboro School, children, parents, staff and the Board of Management work in partnership to provide the best education for our children, and believe that consistent attendance is necessary to facilitate the education of the children .We do not experience difficulties with children's attendance as a rule. The whole-school approach to attendance is as follows;

- promoting a positive learning environment
- child attendance is inputted daily by each class teacher before 10.00 am
- promoting a school culture where every child feels valued, trusted and respected
- facilitating children to have a voice in school matters
- encouraging full attendance where possible
- encouraging punctuality
- fostering an appreciation of learning

- raising awareness of the importance of school attendance
- raising everyone's expectations of our school attendance
- ensuring that child attendance is recorded daily
- ensuring that children are registered accurately and efficiently
- ensuring awareness of and compliance with the requirements of the relevant legislation
- identifying children at risk
- develop, subject to available resources, links between the school and the families of children who may be at risk of attendance problems. Letters are sent home to parents if their child has missed 15 days.
- Another letter is sent home if a child has missed 20 day or more informing parents that social services will be notified.
- identifying and removing, insofar as is practicable, obstacles to school attendance
- rewarding good attendance and improvements in attendance
- Promoting good attendance
- Greeting pupils by name every morning and throughout the day.
- Showing respect to our colleagues and the pupils in our care.
- Making our classrooms bright and colourful areas where pupils are encouraged.
- Celebrating occasions with the pupils eg Halloween, Christmas, Easter, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Grandparents Day, Science Week, World Book Day....
- Attendance Awards are presented at the end of the year to those who have been absent 0-4 days.
- Children who have full attendance at Hallowe'en are entered into a raffle
- Similar raffles are held again at February mid-term based on attendance from Hallowe'en to February mid-term.

- Responding to poor attendance.
- Improvements in attendance of previous poor attenders are acknowledged.
- Parents receive quarterly statements of attendance.
- Parents are given notice of 15 and 20 day absences.

- Principal keeps in regular contact with parents where there is a concern regarding attendance.
- Parents are invited to a meeting to discuss any concerns about attendance.

School roles in relation to attendance

Principal

- Provides leadership for the creation of a school ethos and climate that is supportive of high levels of engagement and attendance.
- Leads on the implementation and review of the school's Attendance Strategy.
- Promotes good attendance at school assemblies and parent meetings.
- Updates Board of Management about school attendance.
- Ensures that the electronic version of the Leabhar Tinrimh Laethúil is filled, printed and filed on a monthly basis.
- Keeps in regular contact with parents where attendance is a concern.
- Sends letters of 15 and 20 day absences to parents.
- Makes the quarterly and annual statistical return to Tusla
- Makes referrals to Tusla when necessary.
- Ensures children are rewarded for excellent attendance and for improving attendance

Teachers

- Provide a classroom climate and classroom management that support participation and engagement, especially with students who may be at risk of poor attendance.
- Encourage and commend good attendance.
- Set high expectations for punctuality and attendance in their classrooms.
- Set examples by their own punctuality.
- Record roll-call electronically using Aladdin administration system.
- Collect and file any notes regarding absence.
- Consult with parents regarding concerns around attendance or punctuality.
- Alert Principal of any concerns regarding attendance and punctuality.
- Distribute quarterly attendance report sheets to parents.

	<u>Board of Management</u>
	 The Board work to provide and support a positive, welcoming environment by maintaining and resourcing the school to a high standard, which in turn promotes good attendance. The Board ensure that an end of year review of the Attendance Strategy is carried out. Monthly attendance percentages will be recorded at Board meetings.
Partnership arrangements (parents,	<u>Parents</u>
students, other schools, youth and community groups)	 Set high standards for their child in relation to attendance and punctuality. Engage with the school if there are problems regarding their child's attendance or punctuality and support plans to address the problem. Ensure that child regularly attends school and arrives at school on time. Provide notes when child is absent from school. Avoid taking child out of class unless there is a serious reason. Avoid taking their child on holiday during term time. Encourage their child to take part in school and extra-curricular activities. Community Groups
	The school liaise with many community organisations, eg. G.A.A. Club, sport clubs, local music groups, and encourage children to become involved in extra-curricular activities held in the school and local community. Other schools
	 Reports, including attendance figures are furnished to schools when a child is transferring Pupils. Make every effort to attend school on a regular Basis and arrive punctually.
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	 Regular review of attendance records and patterns. Review of attendance targets. Feedback from parents, pupils and staff.

Review process and date for review	Poicy to be reviewed annuallyReview date : March 2019
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	7 th March 2018
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	8 th March 2018