

Mission Statement.

“Inspired by our faith in Christ,

St. Patrick’s Catholic P.S. will provide:

A happy, secure and caring learning environment

Which promotes all to be the best they can be

Full of optimism, ambition and with a love of learning.

Working in partnership with our community

We will ensure St. Patrick’s P.S. makes a difference.”

School Motto.

“Be the Best We Can Be Every Day, in Every Way!”

Introduction

Regular school attendance is crucial in raising standards in education and ensuring that every child can have full access to the school curriculum and reach their potential.

St Patrick's Primary School will strive to promote an ethos and culture which encourages good attendance and where each pupil will feel valued and secure.

We appreciate that good attendance at school will support the values upheld in our School Motto

— *“Be the best we can be every day, in every way.”*

Aims

1. To improve/maintain the overall attendance of pupils at St Patrick's Primary School.
2. To develop a framework that defines roles and responsibilities in relation to attendance.
3. To provide advice, support and guidance to parents/guardians and pupils.
4. To promote good relationships with the Education Welfare Service.

Role of the School

The Principal of St Patrick's Primary School, Miss Anne Mc Guinness, has overall responsibility for attendance in our school; (teachers/ancillary staff) should bring any concerns regarding school attendance to her attention.

The Board of Governors provide support by reviewing school attendance figures and targets and ensuring it is placed as an agenda item at a meeting at least once per term.

Teaching staff regularly monitor the attendance and punctuality of pupils by ensuring that attendance is recorded at the beginning of morning registration sessions.

To enable our school to accurately record and monitor attendance in a consistent way we will adhere to the guidance provided in the Department of Education Circular 2015/02, which can be found at the following link:

www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/school-attendance/recordingpupil-absences.htm

St Patrick's Primary School is committed to working with parents to encourage regular and punctual attendance.

Role of Parent

Parents have a legal duty (Article 45(1) of The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986) to ensure their child of compulsory school age shall receive efficient full time education suitable to age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular school attendance or otherwise.

If a child is registered in school, their parent has a legal duty to ensure that they regularly attend that school.

It is a parent's responsibility to inform the school of the reason for a pupil's absence on the first day of absence. This should be confirmed with a written note when the pupil returns to school. If the absence is likely to be prolonged, this information should be provided to enable the school to assist with homework or any other necessary arrangements which may be required.

Pupils are expected to be in school at 9.10 a.m. for registration and the beginning of classes.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that your child is punctual. Lateness is recorded at registration and on your child's attendance record and time to catch up with missed work may be afforded at break and lunch times if appropriate.

If your child appears reluctant to attend school please discuss the matter promptly with the class teacher or Principal to ensure that both you and your child receive maximum support.

Role of Pupils

Each pupil at St Patrick's Primary School must attend school punctually and regularly. If you have been absent from school, a written note from a parent/guardian should be provided to your teacher when you return, even if your parent/guardian has already made contact by telephone to explain the absence.

Absence Procedures

The Education Authority's (EA) Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) monitors absenteeism and the reasons given via the CLASS Management System and also during termly visits to our school. Parents/Guardians should therefore provide either written or verbal reasons (phone call to the office followed by a note on return to school) which provide a clear reason for any absence. If a child has to leave school early then a note should accompany the child explaining the reason.

Family holidays during Term Time

St Patrick's Primary School discourages holidays during term time due to the impact they have on pupils' learning. Family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence. Only in exceptional circumstances will a holiday be authorised and it must be prearranged with the principal.

Procedures for Managing Non-attendance

Attendance figures are monitored regularly and if a pupil's attendance percentage is causing concern a letter(s) will be sent home to alert parents/guardians of this fact so that a concerted effort can be made to address this. Initial contact by letter may be triggered if your child's attendance falls below 90% (appendix 1) with further contact being made as appropriate (appendices 2 & 3).

Education Welfare Service

The Education Authority through the Education Welfare Service (EWS) has a legal duty to make sure that parents meet their responsibility towards their children’s education.

If a pupil’s absence causes concern, or if their attendance falls below 85%, they may be referred to the EWS, if appropriate. The EWS will support staff and parents in developing and implementing strategies to address or improve school attendance.

Signed Date
.....

(Principal)

Signed Date
.....

(Chair, Board of Governors)

Appendix 1

St Patrick's Primary School

10 Annaghmore Road

Coalisland

Co. Tyrone

BT71 4QZ

Tel: (028) 8774 0661

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Regular school attendance is very important and absence may affect a child's progress across the curriculum.

As part of our Monitoring and Evaluations procedures we regularly check the percentage attendance of our pupils to ensure that they are being given every opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge.

In line with our Attendance Policy, if a child's percentage attendance drops below 85% the school is obliged to advise the Educational Welfare Officer, who might become involved with the case. To try and avoid this situation we are writing to advise you that.....percentage attendance is currently.....%.

We would appeal that every effort possible is made to ensure that your child attends school every day from now on.

We look forward to your co-operation on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Appendix 2

St Patrick's Primary School

10 Annaghmore Road

Coalisland

Co.Tyrone

BT71 4QZ

Tel: (028) 8774 0661

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Regular school attendance is very important and absence may affect a child's progress across the curriculum.

As part of our Monitoring and Evaluations procedures we regularly check the percentage attendance of our pupils to ensure that they are being given every opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge.

In line with our Attendance Policy, if a child's percentage attendance drops below 85% the school is obliged to advise the Educational Welfare Officer, who might become involved with the case.

We are writing to advise you that.....percentage attendance is currently.....%.

Unfortunately, this figure is lower than when an earlier letter was sent home indicating that his/her attendance at that time was.....

We would appeal that every effort possible is made to ensure that your child attends school every day from now on.

We look forward to your co-operation on this matter and could you please acknowledge receipt of this letter by completing the reply slip below.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Attendance notification.

I.....(Please print name) as parent/guardian

of.....acknowledge receipt of the letter alerting me to the school's concerns about his/her attendance percentage.

Signed Date

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