

RATIONALE:

This statement was prepared in consultation with the staff, parents and Board of Management in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in Barnacogue NS to foster an appreciation of learning among pupils and encourage regular attendance at school. It was updated in 2017/18.

REWARDING OF STUDENTS WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE:

As a DEIS school, targeting good attendance is part of our school action plan. Students with good attendance may be rewarded in the following ways:

- Presenting certificates to pupils who have full attendance at the end of each term.
- Presenting certificates to pupils who have almost full attendance at the end of each term and who have produced notes of absence for time missed.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING ATTENDANCE:

The following strategies will be employed to improve attendance:

- The school curriculum, insofar as is practicable, will be flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child.
- Barnacogue NS will promote development of good self-esteem and self worth in its pupils (see Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy).
- Support for pupils who have special educational needs in accordance with DES guidelines.
- Attendance rates of pupils will be monitored by the class teacher in the first instance and the class teacher will notify the Principal teacher of any concerns regarding the attendance of any pupil.
- The school will use regular newsletters and texts to promote attendance and punctuality.
- The class teacher will encourage pupils to attend regularly and punctually.
- The class teacher will ensure that contact is made with parents/guardians in instances where absences are not explained. A standard note is used for this purpose.
- The class teacher will keep a daily record of attendance in the Leabhar Rolla.
- The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff.

- Parents will receive written notification when their child has been absent for 10 days and then 15 days consecutively.
- The Principal will inform the NEWB:
 - When a pupil has been missing for twenty or more days during the course of the school year.
 - When a pupil has been suspended from school more than once under the Code of Behaviour.

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS WHO ARE AT RISK OF DEVELOPING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS:

The following strategies may be employed to identify students at risk of developing school attendance problems:

- On transfer to Barnacogue NS, attendance records will be sought from previous schools on pupil attendance.
- Class teachers will inform the Principal of any concerns s/he may have regarding the attendance of any pupil.
- Contact with various agencies who are involved with such students.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND HOME:

Closer home/school relations will be fostered through:

- Attendance at meetings (Parent/Teacher, etc).
- Parent Courses.(eg First Aid)
- Attendance at Merit Awards.
- Attendance at school events (eg Concerts, Masses, etc).
- Involvement in Paired Reading, Maths for Fun, etc.
- Regular newsletters to families.
- Open-door policy in Principal's office for daily communication.
- Availability of teachers every morning.

FOSTERING CONTACTS:

Contact with the following bodies will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of students in Barnacogue NS:

- NEWB.
- Other schools in the vicinity.
- NEPS.
- Both Charlestown & Swinford Parish.
- Local GAA clubs, soccer clubs, etc.
- Local Gardaí .
- Local interest groups such as the Vincent de Paul.

IDENTIFICATION OF ASPECTS AND STRATEGIES:

The Board of Management, teachers and whole school community will be mindful at all times of:

- The identification of aspects of the operation and management of the school and of the teaching of the school curriculum that may contribute to problems relating to school attendance on the part of certain students.
- The identification of strategies for the removal of those aspects in so far as they are not necessary or expedient for the proper and effective running of the school having regard, in particular, to the educational needs of students.
- The identification of strategies that will encourage more regular attendance at school on the part of such students.
- The need to review this strategy into the future to accommodate the changing needs of the school and of its population.

REVIEW

The policy is due for review in 2020/2021.

Chairperson B.O.M : Fr. T Johnston

DATE: 5/10/2017