

ATTENDANCE STRATEGY STATEMENT.

2007/08

This policy is framed with consideration to our existing ethos and mission statement, as stated in our School Plan introduction, where we aspire to each pupil achieving her/his worth and full potential. This policy was formulated as part of the collaborative process of school planning that persists in Ballynacally NS. The Principal and Deputy Principal will be responsible for its implementation and for the task of policy review annually.

We decided to formulate this policy for the following reasons.....

- It is a priority area identified by the parents/pupils/staff
- The existing statement is due for review and amendment
- It is a requirement under Education Welfare Act 2000
- We encourage all pupils to be in attendance

By introducing this statement into our existing School Plan we hope...

- To foster an appreciation of learning ...

- To raise awareness of importance of school attendance ...
- To identify pupils at risk of school leaving early...
- 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 encourage pupils to attend school
- To comply with requirements under Education Welfare Act 2000/Guidelines from NEWB

We note that a parent is obliged to cause a child between the ages of 6 and 16 to attend at "a national school or other suitable school" on each day that the school is open for instruction and that the Education Act Of 2000 obliges the parents of an absent child to notify the principal of the cause of absence not later than the third day of absence. Notes/Records of non-attendance are kept daily.) It is important to remember also that schools must report certain non attendance matters to NEWB (i.e. pupils absent for 20 days or more or where a principal is concerned about a pupil's attendance)

In Ballynacally National School it is our practice to contact Parents/Guardians of pupils who are nearing the limit of 20 days in an informal manner initially.. This ensures that...

- *Parent/Guardians are afforded an opportunity to take corrective action regarding their child's attendance.*
- *Parent/Guardians are made aware that the pupil's non-attendance is of concern to us.*
- *Advance notice can be given to Parent/Guardians on the requirement by the school to contact the NEWB formally.*
- *The school takes the time to make itself aware of any unusual circumstances pertinent to the pupil's non-attendance.*