



## Borrisokane Community College Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Borrisokane Community College
Address	Ballyhaden, Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary
Roll Number	72370P
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>Research shows that those who do not succeed in education have a significantly greater prospect of living in poverty and generally have much poorer life chances. Regular school attendance and participation in training is crucial to avoid this trap.</p> <p>Children must attend school regularly because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good education gives a child the best possible start in life.</li> <li>• If a child goes to school regularly, he or she will be better able to keep up with schoolwork and may grow to enjoy school.</li> <li>• Employers want people who are reliable. Children who think it is ok to miss out on school may also think it is ok to stay off work.</li> <li>• Missing out on school friendships can affect a child's ability to make and keep friendships throughout life.</li> <li>• Children who attend school regularly are less likely to be drawn into anti-social behaviour and/or become involved in crime.</li> </ul> <p>Children should only be absent from school when it is absolutely necessary e.g., due to illness, family bereavement or other exceptional family circumstances. Year Heads, class mentors and teachers will remind students regularly of the importance of good attendance.</p>

<p>The school's high expectations around attendance</p>	<p>Management and teachers place a high priority on attendance. These expectations are shared by the Board of Management, school management, staff and parents/guardians.</p> <p><b>Extract from Code of Behaviour on School Attendance and Punctuality.</b></p> <p>I understand that in order to achieve to the best of my ability my attendance must be regular and I should only be absent from school or leave early in exceptional circumstances. I have a duty to be punctual for school and classes. Vsware is the official record of my attendance at school and will be checked when I need a reference. I will require a note from my parents on VSware explaining my absence.</p>
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	<p>I understand that prolonged absence will be notified to Tusla. A medical certificate should be furnished for illness where possible.</p>
<p>How attendance will be monitored</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance records are available on VSware. Staff, parents and students have access to VSware.</li> <li>• All absences must be explained on VSware.</li> <li>• If a student needs to sign out early:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Parents/Guardians will be required to log the request on VSware stating the reason for the early sign out.</li> <li>b) Student goes to the office at the requested time, sign out approval from the Year head will be checked by the reception staff on VSware.</li> <li>c) Parents/Guardians must present themselves at the school reception to collect the student.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• If a student signs in late (during class 1):             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Student must report to the Year Head at reception, sign the late book and present their journal.</li> <li>b) The Year Head will stamp the students journal with a late stamp.</li> <li>c) Student goes to class and shows the journal to the class teacher.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• If a student signs in late (after class 1):             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student must report to reception.</li> <li>2. Reception staff will mark the student in on VSware and send an alert to the Year Head.</li> <li>3. Student goes to class and shows the journal to the class teacher.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• In the event of a student being absent for a period without notification to the school, the Year head will make contact with home. Parent/Guardian will be contacted again after 15 days unexplained absence and Tusla will be notified after 20 days.</li> <li>• Rewards may be put in place for classes with the best attendance and/or students with most improved attendance in the year.</li> <li>• Parents/Guardians of those who present late frequently will be contacted by the Year Head</li> <li>• Attendance will be addressed at mentoring sessions with class tutors.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A monthly review of lates and absences is presented to the Year Heads by the Principal.</li> </ul>
<p>Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target setting and targets</li> <li>• The whole-school approach</li> <li>• Promoting good attendance</li> <li>• Responding to poor attendance</li> </ul>	<p>At Borrisokane Community College, we set a target of full attendance for all students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and Parents/Guardians are made aware of the importance of full attendance and also the negative effects that absenteeism has on student learning and wellbeing.</li> <li>• The academic calendar for the entire school year is sent home, available on the school website and included in the student journal and parents/guardians are strongly discouraged from taking their children out of school during term time.</li> <li>• As a staff we are very aware of the correlation between disengagement and poor attendance. Attendance is monitored very closely and as soon as a pattern of absenteeism begins to emerge the Year Head informs class tutors and parents/guardians.</li> <li>• Teachers use various teaching methodologies to make sure students are engaged as student disengagement is one of the main reasons why students have high absentee levels.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board of Management and Parents' Committee is kept up to date on attendance patterns.</li> <li>• A record of attendance is available on VSware and forms part of the student's report at Christmas and Summer. It is also discussed at parent teacher meetings.</li> <li>• The importance of regular attendance is emphasised at school assemblies and class mentoring sessions.</li> <li>• Parent's Association give strategies and documentation from Tusla regarding school attendance and the <a href="#">'Every Day Counts'</a> Campaign.</li> <li>• There is a broad range of extra-curricular activities offered to encourage student participation and good attendance.</li> <li>• Students are encouraged to get involved with Student Council, wellbeing committee and extracurricular activities of interest to them etc. to foster a sense of belonging.</li> <li>• Mentoring of first year students is provided through the Cairde programme.</li> <li>• Students with full attendance are awarded a certificate at the end of the school year, students with very good attendance (over 90%) are entered into a draw for vouchers/prize.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early identification and intervention are important for students with poor attendance. As soon as a pattern of absenteeism emerges, the Year Head meets with the student and makes verbal contact with parent/guardian to discuss causes of absenteeism.</li> <li>• We use school structures such as the Student Support Team to support individual students with poor attendance and to draw up an intervention programme.</li> <li>• Circulation of Tusla <a href="#">'Don't Let Your Child Miss Out'</a> leaflet for parents/guardians through school website.</li> <li>• The Response to Intervention Framework will be used in cases where whole-school structures do not meet the need of a student (Support for All, Support for Some, Support for Few)</li> <li>• If parents/guardians have difficulty in getting their child to attend school, they should make contact with the relevant Year Head for their child. Parents/Guardians and children will be supported by the Year Head and Student Support Team. This may take the form of a meeting or meetings with one or more of the following – Career Guidance Counsellor, Class Tutor, Year Head, Deputy Principal, Principal.</li> <li>• If our intervention programme is unsuccessful, we refer the student's case to Tusla's Educational Welfare Services or other child/family support services</li> </ul>
School roles in relation to attendance	Our school secretary, Teachers, Class Tutors, Year Heads, SEN Co-ordinator, Guidance Counsellors, Student Support Team, Deputy Principal and Principal all play an active role in ensuring that we have good attendance.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	<p>Our school has links with a number of networks to raise awareness and to promote good attendance. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents' Association &amp; Student Council</li> <li>- School Board of Management</li> <li>- Tusla Education Welfare Services Officer</li> <li>- Garda Youth Development Project (DEN)</li> <li>- Principals of other local secondary schools</li> <li>- Collaboration with local transport providers</li> <li>- Tusla Social Work Dept.</li> <li>- Silver Arch Family Resource Centre, Nenagh</li> </ul>
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	The senior management team in the school will monitor the Statement of Strategy. The strategy will also be monitored by the Student Support Team. If the strategy is not working effectively, it will be re-evaluated and new strategies will be put into place.
Review process and date for review	This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. The review will take place with the school partners – students, staff, parents/guardians and Board of Management.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	Approved:
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	

