



Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Jan 2024

Name of school	Esker Educate Together National School
Address	The Glebe, Esker Lane, Lucan, Co. Dublin
Roll Number	20274C
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<p>Our vision is to create a school climate where there is a welcoming atmosphere, positive teacher-student relationship and a supportive teaching and learning environment. This positive climate will encourage students' attendance and engagement in learning. The child's positive learning experience will encourage retention in the education system, thus reaching their full personal potential. This school climate is extended to parents to create an inclusive school community. We provide opportunities for parents to contribute to their child's educational journey and to appreciate the value of education and attendance.</p>

<p>The school's high expectations around attendance</p>	<p>We have high standards and expectations for all of our students. We expect parents to ensure their children attend school when they are in full health. In case of an absence, the parents are expected to inform the school via a phone call, note or text. We are aware that our school has a high percentage of migrant families. We have communicated clearly to all families that we expect them to travel home during school holidays. Children are not entitled leave and school is not permitted to allow this. In the case of SEN, we encourage parents to bring their children to school before/after HSE appointments. We are instilling the value of attendance and education.</p>
<p>How attendance will be monitored</p>	<p>Attendance is taken daily by class teachers by 10.20am on the school database – Aladdin Schools. The HSCL oversees the attendance for the whole school. Monthly and termly reports are generated and analysed and contact is made with the families with less than 70% attendance. Bi-annual meetings with the EWO, principal, HSCL and parents of chronic attendance are held.</p>

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

- Target setting and targets
- The whole-school approach
- Promoting good attendance
- Responding to poor attendance

- See school DEIS plan
- We aim to improve our attendance by 0.5% each year.
- Every teacher takes the roll by 10.20am daily and record punctuality (arriving late and leaving early).
- Teachers will follow up communication from parents explaining the absences if necessary.
- Every new parent to the school is provided with the TUSLA 'Don't let your child miss out' document in their mother tongue language.
- Automatic texts are sent from school database to children who miss more than 10, 15 and 20 days of school (this can be disabled in special cases).
- Children who have poor attendance will be spoken to directly by HSCL and principal (where appropriate).
- Parents contact by phone, in school meeting and home visit.
- Letter sent home regarding poor attendance.
- Meeting with Principal, EWO, HSCL and parent explaining the implications if poor attendance continues.
- HSCL attendance strategy- 'If you're in you can win', weekly prize wheel spin in each class, if you're in and the wheel lands on your number you win a prize.
- HERO attendance week held every term, whole class and school effort to improve overall attendance. The class from senior/junior with the highest percentage attendance for the week wins a prize.

<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<p>Class teacher will report any unexplained absences.</p> <p>HSCL will make contact with parents.</p> <p>Principal and HSCL will hold attendance clinics to meet with parents where there is chronic absenteeism or lateness.</p> <p>EWO, principal and HSCL will meet with parents where there is repetitive absences, unexplained absences or areas of concern.</p> <p>A formal referral will be made to TUSLA if the school (principal & HSCL) feels the child's attendance is not improving or deteriorating and the family is not communicating with the school.</p>
<p>Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)</p>	<p>Student Council</p> <p>PTA</p> <p>BOM</p> <p>TUSLA</p> <p>Second level transfer – ACC, KCC,</p>
<p>How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored</p>	<p>HSCL and Principal to review strategy at Care Team meeting once a term.</p> <p>School database to be monitored on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Teachers to report any unexplained absences to HSCL to investigate.</p>
<p>Review process and date for review</p>	<p>This strategy will be reviewed every two years by the Principal and HSCL. The next review will be in 2026.</p>
<p>Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management</p>	<p>16th January 2024</p>

Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	
---	--

