Gaelscoil de hÍde

DÚN EALA, DÚN TEACHAÍN, MAINISTIR FHEARMAÍ,CO. CHORCAÍ

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Attendance Strategy

Gaelscoil de hÍde is committed to providing a learning environment that will foster all children's learning and encourage them to attend school regularly. Our aim is to provide a stimulating day, with clear guidelines and structures, so that children feel welcome and nurtured while attending school. We believe that our pupils will benefit from this education through regular attendance. Inso far as possible, we aim to have full attendance from all of our pupils. Casual absences (for whatever reason) are discouraged as they have a direct impact on children'slearning. We aim to support children and parents in achieving good attendance.

Among the many strategies/measures we use to ensure regular attendance are:

- We aim to provide a warm, welcoming and supportive learning environment for our pupils, one inwhich they are valued and respected and in which provision is made for their learning needs.

- One teacher has a Special Duties Post which includes the monitoring and promotion of good attendance. We publicly and positively affirm those children who have excellent attendance. Theyare awarded full attendance certificates at the end of the school year.

- We hold regular and open class-level discussions with the children on the importance of regularattendance.

- We praise and reward those who are making a serious effort to improve their attendance.
- We have regular communication with parents and provide them with updates on their child'sattendance if it is a cause for concern. (Aladdin texts when a child reaches 15 absences)

- Our class teachers and support teachers seek to ensure that children who may be experiencing learning difficulties are actively supported and encouraged with appropriate teaching. Homework is tailored to the individual needs of these pupils.

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- Our school's code of behaviour takes a positive approach to fostering good behaviour.
- We ask parents to value every minute that the children spend at school and therefore make surethat the children are sitting in their classroom by 8.50am.
- In the same way we ask parents not to ask to let the children off early, unless for a specific appointment. We use a sign-out sheet in the school office for children who are collected early by aparent. This enables us to keep a record of such absences and make parents aware of how much time is being missed.

The Education (Welfare) Act 2000 provides a framework under which attendance at school can bedealt with by law. As a result of the Act, the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) has beenestablished and has appointed Education Welfare Officers.
Under the regulations of the Act, the school is obliged to:

- Keep a record of pupils' attendance.
- Submit to the NEWB the names of all pupils who miss 20 or more days from school.
- Keep a written record of pupils' absences. (Recorded in Aladdin)

Under the Act, parents are required to:

- Send their children to school each day.
- Notify the Príomhoide/Múinteoir Ranga, in writing, the reason for a child's absence.

The school keeps a record of all such absences, using the codes as set down by the NEWB (seebelow). (Aladdin Roll Call)
National Education Welfare Board Codes
for Category of AbsenceA Illness
B Urgent Family
Reasons (eg:
Bereavement)C
Expelled
D Suspended
E Other (eg: Holidays, Religious
Observance, Emigration)F
Unexplained
G Transfer to another school (written confirmation received from other school)

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