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| **St Ibars NS.**  **Castlebridge,**  **Co. Wexford,**  **Y35 Y208.**  **Tel: 053 9159442**  **Fax: 053 9159442**  **Website:** www.castlebridgens.ie  **E-mail:** castlebridgens@gmail.com | Logo | **Scoil Naomh Iobhar.**  **Castlebridge,**  **Co. Wexford.**  **Eugene Byrne**  **(Chairperson of Board)**  **Edward Lyons(Principal)** |

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| Name of school | Castlebridge National School |
| Address | Castlebridge, Co. Wexford |
| Roll Number | 18707s |
| The school’s vision and values in relation to attendance | In relation to this attendance strategy it needs to be read in conjunction with the school's P**olicy on Attendance** which was reviewed in 2014 and is attached as Appendix 1 to this strategy.  This statement was prepared in consultation with staff, parents/guardians, Board of Management in order to highlight the strategies and measures in place in Castlebridge NS.   * Board of Management wishes to promote and encourage regular attendance as an essential factor in our pupil's learning. * To ensure and maintain a high level of attendance at school by all pupils. * To foster an appreciation of learning among pupils which encourages regular attendance at school. |
| The school’s high expectations around attendance | The annual school attendance percentage in our school always exceeds 90% and usually is in the 95% - 96%.  The Board of Management, teachers and the whole school community will be mindful at all times of maintaining this high level through:   * 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.   See also in Appendix 1 our aims and objectives in Policy on Attendance. |
| How attendance will be monitored | See Recording and Reporting of Attendance and Non-Attendance in Appendix 1.  Our attendance monitoring is now possible through our online database as our Rolla and Leabhar Tinrimh attendances are now filled in online. Our Primary Online Database is live on our Salespulse database system.  Parents are informed in the start of year letter the **Procedures For The Notification Of Absences To The School. In this letter parents are informed of the following.**   * School opening times. * When parents should inform school of an absence. * The person to be informed (Class Teacher, Principal) * The method to be used (Journal, note, phonecall) * The time at which students will be marked absent. * Procedures if a student needs to leave school before the end of the school day.   Attendance/'Term Time' Absences/Academic Year Calendar   * Under Section 17 of Educational (Welfare) Act 2000, parents/guardians have a legal duty to ensure that their child who is attending a recognised school, (i.e. Castlebridge NS) is at school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him or her not to attend. * Under Section 21(9) of Education (Welfare) Act 2000, only absences relating to activities organised by the school in which the school is involved can be authorised by the BOM/the Principal. * The annual school calendar will be drawn up and distributed to parents/guardians as early as possible each year. * Castlebridge NS cannot give 'permission' for holiday absences during 'term time' and parents/guardians are strongly discouraged from taking pupils on holidays during the school year but ultimately it is a parental decision. |
| 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 | Our main target is to maintain our high level of school attendance. Targeting good attendance is part of our Whole School Action Plan. Students with good attendance may be rewarded in the following ways:  Presenting certificates to pupils 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.  See whole school strategies to promote attendance in our Policy of Attendance in Appendix 1. The following strategies will also be employed to improve attendance:   * The school curriculum, in so far as is practicable, will be flexible and relevant to the needs of the individual child. * Castlebridge NS will promote the development of good self-esteem and self worth in its pupils. (See Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy).The school has recently developed a Code of behaviour using the Restorative Practice model. * The school will deliver its SPHE curriculum, its Stay Safe programme and its RSE programme. * Support for pupils who have special educational needs in accordance with DES guidelines. * The school will use regular communication and web texts to promote attendance and punctuality. * The class teachers will encourage to pupils to attend regularly and punctually. * Parents will be encouraged to use the Homework Diary to explain absences. A standard note is in the Diary for this purpose. * The Principal will promote the importance of good school attendance among pupils, parents and staff. * Attendance will be featured as part of our school assembly. * 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.   See our Policy on Attendance in Appendix 1. The school promotes good attendance by the following:  Creating a safe and welcoming environment for pupils.  Parents are made aware of the importance of regular attendance to enable the child's uninterrupted progress at the beginning of the year meeting and regularly through newsletters during the year.  The school produces a newsletter each term to keep parents updated on all that is happening in the school.  Castlebridge NS has a very child friendly website which celebrates all the achievements of its pupils.  Parents are informed of the NEWB rule of 20 days compulsory notification at the beginning of school year letter. All absences of more than 20 days notified to NEWB and to parents.  In school promotion of attendance through awarding attendance certificates at the end of each school year.  The Principal in co-operation with the staff awards end of week student of week certificates. Further the Principal rewards the class of the week.  Attendance filled in for each child in end of year reporting for parents information.  Developing, implementing, evaluating and reviewing targets and actions on attendance on an annual basis.  Home school links positively encouraged by the whole school community. Regular updates on textaparent re school events, school closures etc.  The inclusion of a large body of work of the childrens' work in the Castlebridge Show.  The creation and maintenance of a vegetable garden within the school grounds.  The organisation of school tours for all the classes in St Ibars.  The attendance at plays, (age appropriate) exhibitions, education programmes etc, e.g. classes in St Ibars regularly avail of the education programmes available at the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.  The Parents Council and the SNA's in the school have developed a room as a multi sensory room to aid ASD children to complete full attendance.  Including students in projects such as:   * Credit Union quizzes. * Bree Sports. * School plays. * Rackard League, (hurling, girls and boys football, camogie, and boys and girls rounders). * Mini sevens. * School sports day with barbeque organised by parents. * GAA coaching and Tag rugby. * Sprocket Rocket Cycling Safety Course. * Library visits. * Term masses organised by 6th class teachers with the active participation of the student body. * School choir. * Fis-Film Project. * Swimming lessons. * The promotion of a minder system where 6th class assist with infants at playtime. * Green schools. * Participation in County Council projects. * Workshops in dance etc. * Annual Fancy Dress walk at Halloween. * The school organises several charitable fundraisers during the year. In 2010/2011 year we had one local (St. Vincent de Paul), two national (Daffodil day and the Irish WheelChair Association), one international (Goal Jersey Day). The children are all encouraged to take part in these fundraisers and made aware of their positive impact. * Parents Council organise Cheerios Breakfast Morning and an annual visit from Santa Claus. * Visits by external visitors, e.g. lecture by MD of Microsoft Ireland, re internet mobile phone safety in Mach 2011. Internet Safety Day with Zeeko for Parents, Pupils and Teachers on the14th March. * A 2pm - 3pm club operates in the school. Further we operate a Homework Club between 3pm - 4pm Monday to Thursday to facilitate those having problems completing homework. * Extra-curricular activities will be encouraged for all pupils, specifically those at risk of non-attendance. * Supervision arrangements in the school are of the highest standard with 3 SNAs and 3 class teachers on duty at all times.   The following strategies may be employed to identify students at risk of developing school attendance problems:  On transfer to Castlebridge NS attendance records will be sought from previous schools on pupil attendance.  Class teachers will inform the Principal of any concerns he/she may have regarding the attendance of any pupil.  Contact with various agencies who are involved with such students.  Responses to poor attendance will include the following:  Working with groups or individuals who may need additional support;  Tailoring whole-school approaches to group or individual need;  Engaging in early dialogue with parents and students;  Using internal school processes to provide individualised support;  Using school led, multi-agency support processes;  Referral to Tulsa's Educational Welfare Services;  Re-engaging students. |
| School roles in relation to attendance | The teachers fill in a daily Rolla Sheet developed by the Principal and the School Secretary.  The data collected is then inputted by the School Principal into our online database.  In 2017-2018 the class teachers will be able to input absences themselves.  Where concerns arise, the class teacher or the secretary monitoring the attendance brings the concern to the attention of the Principal. The Principal and the teacher assesses each case individually and develops a strategy accordingly. Parents will at all times be part of this strategy.  The school will follow its policy on responding to poor attendance in doing so the Board of Management and the school will comply with legislation, such as:  The Education Act, 1998  The Education (Welfare) Act, 2000.  We are at all times using the NEWB/Tulsa guidelines for schools . |
| Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups) | Closer home/ school relations will be fostered through:  Continuation of fostering close links with Parents Association on an ongoing basis.  Attendance at meetings (parent/teacher) etc.  Involvement in paired reading, maths for fun etc.  Regular communication to families.  "Open door policy " in Principal's office for daily communication.  Attendance of parents at school sports day and organising of the accompanying barbeque.  Attendance at school events (e.g. concerts, plays, masses, graduation ceremonies etc).  Organising through Parents Council, speakers for the parent body.  Fostering close links with the local sports clubs in the area.  **Fostering contacts:**  Contact with the following bodies will be fostered and developed in order to promote the good attendance of students in Castlebridge NS.  NEWB  Other schools in the vicinity.  NEPS.  SENO.  Castlebridge Parish.  Local sports clubs etc.  Local interest groups i.e. St .Vincent de Paul, Wexford County Council.  Castlebridge in school and afterschool facilities. |
| How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored | The Statement of Strategy will be monitored by the Principal, School Secretary and the teachers internally on an ongoing basis. On a termly basis attendance will be reviewed during Croke Park hours.  The Principal will keep the Board of Management informed of any concerns that may arise. He will also keep them informed of all the positive actions that are taking place to encourage good attendance. He will also let them know on a termly basis our percentage attendance. |
| Review process and date for review | The Board of Management will review the Whole School Strategy on a 3 year basis while at the same time monitoring attendance through information received from the Principal on an ongoing basis. |
| Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management | 11th January 2017 |
| Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla | 14th January 2017 |