



Réalt na Mara GNS Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	Réalt Na Mara Girls School
Address	Donacarney, Mornington, Co Meath.
Roll Number	18767N
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	Réalt na Mara Girls' National School seeks to promote and support all aspects of the children's wellbeing as a core value of our ethos. We strive to ensure that all our students can flourish in an environment that is nurturing, supportive and progressive. We are guided by our mission statement, the aim of which is to ensure that each child, through confidence and self-belief may achieve their full potential. We believe that there is a clear and direct link between regular school attendance and pupil progress. We recognise the importance of parents/guardians and school staff working together to achieve optimal attendance for each child in our care. Our students are encouraged to take pride in all that they do, including attending school.
The school's high expectations around attendance	Attendance is crucial to effective learning and the continuity of learning experiences. Therefore, the school places great emphasis on regular attendance in communications with parents and pupils. The Board of Management of Réalt na Mara GNS wishes to promote and encourage regular attendance as an essential factor in our pupils' learning. We expect children to have full attendance at school unless they are ill or have medical appointments. We fully understand that there may also be urgent family

	reasons why a child cannot attend school, especially in the case of bereavement and endeavour to offer our support in these instances. We also expect the pupils to be punctual.
How attendance will be monitored	Attendance will be monitored using <i>Aladdin</i> - an electronic roll. The roll is called by the class teacher at 10.30am daily. A child who is not present by this time will be marked absent. If a pupil arrives after roll call the teacher will amend the record as 'Late' on Aladdin. The parent/ guardian of an absent child should note the child's absence on Aladdin. The reason for the child's absence should be entered on the Aladdin app also.
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	<u>Target Setting and Targets</u> ● Reduce the number of children reaching 20 day's absence ● Reduce the number of children taking holidays throughout the school term <u>The whole-school approach</u> ● We aim to make school a place the children enjoy and are stimulated in a caring atmosphere. Their happiness and wellbeing are priorities. If children have difficulties of any kind, we work with students and parents to address any concerns. ● We promote good communication with all parents. ● Teachers report to the ISL member with responsibility for attendance/Principal if they have concerns about a child's absence. <u>Promoting Good Attendance</u> ● The children with 100% attendance and 1 day missed receive attendance awards from the Principal at assembly at the end of the year. Parents are asked not to take their children out of school for holidays.

- *The BOM* directs energy and available resources towards maintaining and improving our school building and the general school environment. This in turn creates a positive backdrop for school attendance
- *The Parents' Association* support the work of the school throughout the year and provide additional funding and opportunities for students which enhance their wellbeing e.g. funding the school garden and library, organising school events and the school Beach Walk etc.
- *As a staff* we strive to provide a supportive learning environment in which all students are respected and valued and in which cognisance is taken of their learning needs. *Students* in Réalt na Mara GNS enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum. Provision is made for a wide range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The Student Council and Wellbeing committees offer opportunities for students to express their views regarding enhancing the school climate. These opportunities impact positively on pupil engagement and can in turn have a positive effect on attendance.
- Supportive *parish and community links* further enhance the experience of Réalt na Mara students and their families which is a positive factor in school attendance.

Responding to Poor Attendance

- There is a list of children on Aladdin showing those with the highest absences. This is monitored by the Post holder with responsibility for school attendance and the Principal. When children reach 15 days a

	reminder letter is sent showing how much the child has missed and reminding parents of their duties. If a child reaches 20 days another letter is sent and a reminder that this will be reported to the EWO if over 20 days are reached. ● Parents/ Guardians of a child whose attendance is of concern are invited to meet with the Principal to discuss the issue and to work in partnership to find a solution which prioritises the wellbeing of the student.
School roles in relation to attendance	Parents: ● To put a note on Aladdin if a child is absent, noting the reason for absence ● Attach a doctor's cert when appropriate. ● To write a letter/put a note on Aladdin if pupil goes on holidays during term time (this is NOT recommended) ● To ensure the child is in school by 9.10. (Roll is called at 10.30am) Teachers ● To call the roll on time at 10.30am ● To record lateness. ● To accurately record reasons for absence. ● To alert relevant post-holder and/or Principal about concerns re attendance/lateness/child protection. Post holder/Principal ● To monitor attendance data and identify trends and patterns in attendance. ● To follow up poor attendance regularly/monthly ● To liaise with EWO/Tusla ● Principal submits mandatory attendance reports to TESS (annual attendance report at

	the end of the year and School attendance reports twice a year) • The school is obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer in writing of any child who has been absent for 20 days or more in a school year, where attendance is irregular, where a child has been removed from the school register or where a child has been expelled or suspended from school for a period of 6 days or more. • Each child's attendance record is documented on their annual summer report.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	• Parents/Guardians are made aware of the requirements of Túsla Child and Family Agency, particularly the by-law relating to absences of more than 20 days per school year. • When a child has been absent for 15 days within a school year, parents/guardians will receive a notification via Aladdin alerting them to the fact that their child is approaching 20 days of absence.
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	The success of the Strategy for School Attendance will be measured through • Accurate data including absence reasons available to Administrative staff on Aladdin • Children's positive dispositions toward attendance and punctuality • Positive working relationships between home and school in finding solutions to problems around attendance and punctuality • Teacher observations and reports
Review process and date for review	Review will take place in September 2028 or as the need arises taking into consideration best practice and legal requirements

Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	16/9/2026
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla <u>Signed:</u>  Chairperson, Board of Management <u>Date:</u>	17/9/2026 16th September 2026