



Harold Boys' National School  
 St. Patrick's Road,  
 Dalkey  
 Co. Dublin  
 Phone/Fax: 01 2856193  
 Email: [info@haroldboysdalkey.ie](mailto:info@haroldboysdalkey.ie) Website: [www.haroldboysdalkey.ie](http://www.haroldboysdalkey.ie)  
 Principal: *Teresa Buckley*

### Harold Boys' N.S. Statement of Strategy for School Attendance 2017-18

Name of school	Harold Boys' N.S.
Address	St Patrick's Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin
Roll Number	15132B
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness of the importance of regular school attendance</li> <li>• To promote &amp; foster positive attitudes to learning</li> <li>• To enhance the learning environment</li> <li>• To ensure compliance with the relevant legislation</li> </ul>
The school's high expectations around attendance	The Statement of Strategy aims to build a culture of high expectations among all staff and with every student for the students' learning, participation and attendance.
How attendance will be monitored	Attendance is accurately recorded at the beginning of each school day. This is recorded on Aladdin by electronic roll – at 10 am daily. As provided for in Rule 55 ('School Hours, School Meetings, Roll-Call') in the Rules for National Schools 1965 (Rules for National Schools under the Department of Education) Circular 0028/2013 and Circular 0033/2015 outline the Department of Education and Skills' requirements regarding attendance recording at primary level. Department of Education and Skills Circular 0028/2013 outlines the simplified arrangements for the maintenance of pupil enrolment and attendance records in the Clárleabhar, Leabhar Rolla and Leabhar Tinrimh Laethúil.
Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target setting and targets <i>To improve attendance &amp; punctuality.</i></li> <li>• The whole-school approach</li> </ul>	Attendance rate 2016-17: 95.1% 9 Pupils missed over 20 days 2016-17  Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve attendance levels in the school.</li> <li>• To raise awareness about attendance among management, staff, students and parents.</li> <li>• To encourage an ethos of continuous improvement.</li> <li>• To encourage a sense of commitment to attendance and a sense of pride in the school's achievements.</li> <li>• To reduce the total number of days lost through student absence in the entire school year.</li> <li>• To reduce the total number of students who were absent for 20 days or more during the school year.</li> </ul> <p>A whole-school approach to attendance will mean that: school ethos, policies and practices work consistently together to support good attendance. Attendance is a regular part of development planning and school self- evaluation. Management, staff &amp; parents work as a team, as part of an inclusive school community and have opportunities to contribute to and take appropriate responsibility for attendance policy and strategy.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting good attendance</li> <li>Responding to poor attendance</li> </ul>	<p>Parents will be written to each September reminding them of the importance of good attendance. They will be again reminded of this in monthly newsletters. Parents are notified of their son's attendance in June in the Annual School Report &amp; this is posted home.</p> <p>Letter to parents. Notify TUSLA of pupils who absent 20 days or over.</p>
<p>School roles in relation to attendance</p>	<p><b>Parents</b> Write explanation of absence &amp; send to the class teacher. Policy for absences due to term-time holidays: Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child who is attending a recognised school is at school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him not to attend (Section 17 of Education (Welfare) Act 2000). Only absences relating to activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved can be authorised by the Principal (Section 21(9) of Education (Welfare) Act 2000). Therefore, the school cannot give 'permission' for holiday absences during term time. Harold Boys' N.S. strongly discourages parents from taking students on holidays during term time and this is documented in the school's communication to parents. If a parent decides to take a child out of school for holidays, the Principal requests the parent to provide a letter to the school to say they are doing so and are aware of the implications. Where there are regular holiday absences, the school reminds parents of the educational and potential legal impact of removing students from school for periods of time.</p> <p><b>Teachers</b> Call roll at 10am. Keep all notes of explanation of absence on file. Record reason for absence. Encourage regular attendance.</p> <p><b>Principal</b> Writes to parents if pupil is absent 20 days or over. Encourage regular attendance.</p>
<p>Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)</p>	<p>Liaise with Loreto re incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; with other schools of incoming pupils.</p>
<p>How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored</p>	<p>Periodically with alterations made where required.</p>
<p>Review process &amp; date for review.</p>	<p>Reviewed annually by staff &amp; Board of Management in September.</p>
<p>Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management</p>	<p>January 11<sup>th</sup> 2018</p>
<p>Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla</p>	<p>January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018</p>