STATEMENT OF STRATEGY FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Name of School: Athboy Community School

Address: Athboy, Co. Meath. C15 XY73

Roll Number: 91517D

School's Vision and Values in relation to Attendance

The mission of the school is to provide quality, holistic and inclusive education for the community. The aim is to create a safe and caring environment which encourages pupils to reach their full potential in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The school has developed a separate Attendance Policy which outlines the ways in which pupils are encouraged to attend and participate actively in the life of the school.

School's Expectations around Attendance

Central to the school's Attendance Policy is the maximisation of pupils' attendance and participation. It is expected that pupils will attend regularly and that absences will occur only when absolutely necessary.

Monitoring of Attendance

Pupil attendance will be recorded on the school's electronic registration system, normally for each class period. Where relevant, parents/guardians may receive a text message when pupils are marked absent at Roll Call in the morning. Records of attendance will be monitored by the individual subject teacher and also by the Year Head who will have responsibility for intervening where patterns of absenteeism emerge and are not adequately explained.

The School's Approach to Attendance

The school's approach to promoting pupil attendance and participation is outlined in the Attendance Policy and related school policies such as Pastoral Care, Awards, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Additional Educational Needs.   The school will provide a broad curriculum with a wide choice of subjects to meet the needs and aptitudes of pupils. The school will also, with the assistance of teachers mainly on a voluntary basis, provide opportunities to become involved in extra and co-curricular activities.

Monthly attendance figures are published by Year Group which allow for targets to be set in terms of previous figures and in terms of the national averages. This also allows for the identification of trends of absenteeism among certain year groups and at certain times of the year. Under the school's Attendance Policy, certificates of Full Attendance are awarded on a monthly basis. Pupils with full attendance for the year receive a special prize.

Where poor attendance is identified the Year Head will intervene by contacting the parents/guardians concerned in an effort to redress the situation. Where this is unsuccessful the school will refer the matter to Tusla for the attention of the Educational Welfare Officer. All students (under 16 years of age) who have 20 or more absences will be reported to Tusla.

School Roles in relation to Attendance
Pupil attendance will be monitored by Subject Teacher, Class Tutor, and Year Head to whom referrals can be made and who will have responsibility for intervening where a pattern of absenteeism presents. Such intervention will include speaking with the pupil, phoning and writing to the parent/guardians (after five inadequately explained absences) and meeting with the parent/guardians (after ten such absences). Where the pattern of absenteeism continues, the school will make a referral to Tusla using the standard reporting form.

Partnership with Community Groups
The school will encourage pupils to participate in local community groups and organisations, and will formally and informally recognise achievements by pupils in these activities.

Monitoring
The Statement of Strategy will be monitored throughout the year by the school's Pastoral Care Team. Attendance data will be analysed to gauge the success or otherwise of the interventions and systems put in place. Monthly figures will be supplied to all staff and to the Board of Management.

Review
The Statement of Strategy will be reviewed by the Board of Management in conjunction with related policies at intervals set by the Board, but at least every two years.

Date of Approval by Board of Management: 15th December 2016

Date Submitted to Tusla: 20th December 2016