



Rath Dara Community College Statement of Strategy for School Attendance

Name of school	RATH DARA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Address	BLANCHARDSTOWN, DUBLIN 15
Roll Number	70081V
The school's vision and values in relation to attendance	Rath Dara Community College is committed to fostering a positive, inclusive, and supportive learning environment where every student is encouraged to attend school regularly and participate fully in school life. The school values respect, responsibility, and engagement, recognising that consistent attendance is fundamental to students' academic achievement, wellbeing, and personal development.
The school's high expectations around attendance	The school promotes a culture of high expectations where all students are expected to attend school every day, arrive on time, and engage fully in their learning. Attendance and punctuality are emphasised as key life skills. The school community works collaboratively to ensure that students understand the importance of regular attendance and the impact of absenteeism on educational outcomes.
How attendance will be monitored	Attendance is recorded daily using the school's electronic attendance system. Class teachers record attendance each lesson, and this data is monitored by Year Heads, the Deputy Principal, and the Principal. Patterns of absence, lateness, and early leaving are reviewed regularly. Parents/guardians are informed of absences through the school communication system. Reports are generated to identify students at risk of poor attendance.
Summary of the main elements of the school's approach to attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting and targets • The whole-school approach • Promoting good attendance • Responding to poor attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting and targets The school sets clear attendance targets in line with national expectations. Individual and group targets may be set for students identified as at risk of poor attendance. Progress towards targets is monitored and reviewed regularly. • The whole-school approach Attendance is promoted as a shared responsibility across the entire school community. All staff contribute to fostering a positive school climate that encourages attendance. Policies such as the Code of Behaviour and Wellbeing programmes support student engagement and

	<p>participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting good attendance The school promotes good attendance through positive reinforcement strategies, including reward systems, recognition of excellent and improved attendance, and encouragement of student participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Attendance awareness initiatives are organised throughout the school year. • Responding to poor attendance The school responds promptly to concerns about attendance. Interventions include contact with parents/guardians, meetings with students, and the development of support plans. Where attendance issues persist, referrals may be made to Tusla Educational Welfare Services in line with statutory requirements (e.g., when absences reach 20 days). Additional supports such as guidance counselling and pastoral care are provided where necessary.
School roles in relation to attendance	The Board of Management oversees the implementation of the strategy. The Principal and Deputy Principal provide leadership and monitor attendance trends. Year Heads and SCP track attendance and liaise with parents/guardians. Teachers record attendance and support student engagement. The Home School Community Liaison (HSCL), where applicable, supports communication with families.
Partnership arrangements (parents, students, other schools, youth and community groups)	Rath Dara Community College works in partnership with parents/guardians to promote good attendance. Parents are expected to notify the school of absences and support their child's regular attendance. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their attendance. The school liaises with external agencies, including Tusla Educational Welfare Services, NEPS, and local youth and community groups, to support students where necessary.
How the Statement of Strategy will be monitored	The implementation of this strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by school management. Attendance data will be reviewed regularly, and feedback from staff, students, and parents will inform any necessary adjustments to the strategy.
Review process and date for review	This Statement of Strategy will be reviewed annually or as required in response to changes in legislation or school needs.
Date the Statement of Strategy was approved by the Board of Management	11 March 2026
Date the Statement of Strategy submitted to Tusla	16-03-2026