



Monitoring Student Attendance Policy

Reviewed: July 2019

Ratified: (Month Year)

Next Review: 2024

Background

Regular attendance for all school-aged children is important in their educational and social development. Children who attend school regularly have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher income levels across their lifespan. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age to maximise their life opportunities. The school will communicate these expectations to parents on enrolment and through regular updates such as the school newsletter.

Students are expected to attend school during normal school hours every day of each school term unless:

- There is an approved exemption
- The student is registered for home schooling and has only partial enrolment

Students are considered to be in attendance at school if they are involved in an offsite curriculum program or activity organized by the school.

Procedures

- Classroom teachers twice daily will record attendance, and late arrivals, in the mornings and afternoons; including those days when the class may be off site.
- A student is present for a half day when the student has attended at least two hours of instruction.
- Daily attendance is monitored using the software – SIMON, and a tally of days absent and late arrivals is included on the student's semester reports. The reason for absence will be coded such as for being sick, medical appointment, school notified, funeral and holidays.
- Contact details of parents/guardians will be accurately maintained. Reminders to update contact numbers will be in school newsletters.
- Parents are expected to provide an explanation for students who are absent by 10am, This can be done in writing or by phone / text. In instances where the parent has not provided an explanation in writing administration staff will note in their diaries the phone / text conversation.
- If a child is absent and no communication has been received from the parent, a phone call will be made by the administration officer by 10am. If no contact is made with the parents then the administration officer will inform the principal.
- All records of contact and attempted contact with families regarding student absences will be recorded and the records kept

- Long term and / or consistent unexplained absences will be followed up by the principal and parents informed, in writing, if the principal deems that they have not met their obligations under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*.
- The role description of the administration officer/s will state that they are responsible to follow-up on unexplained absences at 10am or as soon as practical and for maintaining a current register of parent/guardian contact details.
- Student attendance will be accurately recorded on the student report twice per year and unsatisfactory attendance at school or classes will be noted in student file.

Attendance Improvement Strategies

- Attendance improvement strategies will be implemented for any student who has been absent more than five days in a school term, or in situations where school refusal is a factor in attendance. A support group may be established if the principal believes that the individual student and / or family require this support. The school will refer to Every Day Counts (DET) and use the CECV process outlined on CEVN/Curriculum and Student Support/Every Day Counts.
- The principal will contact the Catholic Education Office in accordance with CECV procedures if the school strategies are not assisting in improving attendance of an individual student.