

ATTENDANCE

POLICY

Rationale:

- The Education Department requires that children of school age (six-seventeen years) are required to be in full-time attendance at a government or registered non-government school unless they are receiving approved home tuition, correspondence education, or have been granted an exemption by the Regional Director.

Aims:

- To maximise student learning opportunities and performance by ensuring that children required to attend school do so regularly, and without unnecessary absences.
- That regular lateness is minimised as the cumulative effect of this has a major impact on learning and socialisation.

Implementation:

- Education is a sequential process. Absences often mean students miss important stages in the development of topics, causing them to find 'catching up' difficult.
- Absenteeism contributes significantly to student failure at school.
- All enrolled students are required to attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent.
- Illness is reasonable grounds for an absence - shopping excursions or birthday parties are not.
- Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly, and are only absent if ill or if absolutely necessary.
- Parents have a further responsibility to provide a written note or return a completed absence form (See Form 1 below) to the school explaining why an absence has occurred.
- The principal has a responsibility to ensure that attendance records are maintained and monitored at school.
- All student absences are recorded in both the morning and the afternoon by teachers, are aggregated on our database and communicated to the Department of Education.
- The Department of Education and enrolment auditors may seek student attendance records.
- The principal has a further responsibility to ensure that unexplained absences are investigated, and that high levels of absenteeism are adequately explained. (See Form 2 below).
- The school will contact parents of students with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences, with the view to developing and implementing strategies to minimise absences.
- Ongoing unexplained absences or lack of cooperation regarding student attendance will result in a formal attendance conference being organised. Unresolved attendance issues may be reported by the principal to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education.
- Student attendance and absence figures will appear on student half year and end of year reports.
- Aggregated student attendance data is reported to the Department of Education and Training and the wider community each year as part of the annual report.

- Parents have a responsibility to notify the school as soon as possible if their child will not be at school.
- If a child is absent without notification the school should contact the parents to confirm the absence of a child.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	15-9-2015
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STUDENT ABSENCE FORM		Form 1
Student Name:	Class:	
 Date of Absence:		
 Reason For Absence:		
 Parent Signature:		

STUDENT ABSENCES

Date.....

Dear Parent / Guardian,

It has been brought to my attention that your child
..... has been absent from school recently and has not
yet provided a written note explaining the reason for the absence.

The date/s of the absence/s are:

It is an Education Department requirement that students provide a note from parents
explaining all absences.

Therefore, you are required to provide a note covering the above absence/s from
school as soon as possible.

Staff Signature.....