

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Rationale:

- The *Education Act 1958* requires that children of school age, resident in Victoria are required to be in full-time attendance at a government or registered non-government school unless formally exempt. Our school requires that post-compulsory aged students also attend school unless a valid reason exists.

Aims:

- To maximise student learning opportunities and performance by ensuring that children required to attend school do so regularly, and without unnecessary or frivolous absences.

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.
- 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 to the school explaining why an absence has occurred.
- Student Managers will be responsible for monitoring and investigating student absences.
- Parents of students who are to be absent are required to telephone the school before 9:00am to report the absence. The absence is then to be confirmed in writing by a note from parents.
- Independent students not living with parents or guardians are also required to provide notes.
- Student Managers will telephone parents of absent students if communication from parents is not forthcoming.
- Unexplained or inadequately explained absences will cause the designated staff member to communicate with parents and the student involved to implement strategies that will resolve the problem.
- Ongoing unexplained absences, or lack of cooperation regarding student attendance will result in a formal attendance conference being organised. Unresolved attendance issues of post-compulsory students may result in their expulsion from school. Unresolved attendance issues for students required to attend may result in year level failure and may be reported by the principal to the Department of Human Services.
- The principal will ensure all student absences are recorded each period by teachers, are aggregated on our CASES database and communicated to the Department of Education.
- The Department of Education and enrolment auditors may seek student attendance records.
- 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 the wider community each year as part of the annual report.

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

Date: June 2014