



Our Lady of the Way Primary School

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Student Attendance Policy

Updated 2023

1.0 Rationale

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children school staff, as part of their duty of care, must monitor part and whole day absences.

2.0 Aims

School staff are responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by:

- 2.1 Providing a caring teaching and learning environment that fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community.
- 2.2 Recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance.
- 2.3 Maintaining accurate records of student attendance every day.
- 2.4 Implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.
- 2.5 Providing clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.
- 2.6 Monitor student attendance and ensure any concerns or patterns of unexplained absences are followed up.

3.0 Implementation

- 3.1 Staff are trained to use the COMPASS on-line attendance register so they can accurately record student attendance.
- 3.2 Accurate records are kept of students who are signed in and out during school hours each day.
- 3.3 Plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern.
- 3.4 Parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements.

- 3.5 The CSPD Attendance Team is notified of students with chronic non-attendance and for whom the school's strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.
- 3.6 Students taking holidays outside of school vacation periods will be included as absences. (A certificate of exception may be granted, but the absences count towards overall student attendance rate meaning).
- 3.8 Certificates of Exemption from the compulsory education requirements of the Act may be granted by the principal or delegated officer when it has been clearly demonstrated by the applicant that an exemption is in the student's best interests in the short and long term and that alternatives to exemption have been considered. Applications for an exemption must be made in writing by the parent or carer using the appropriate CSPD forms.
- 3.9 Steps for responding to habitual unexplained non-attendance at school will be followed.
- 3.10 The school has a responsibility to support those families that are poor, marginalised and in most need when students are affected by poor attendance.
- 3.11 For a student who was enrolled at the school and has left and the destination of this student is unknown, the Principal or delegate must notify the DEC Home Liaison Officer with the following information:
- Student's full name, Date of Birth and last known address
 - Last date of attendance
 - Parent's names and contact details
 - Indication of possible destination
 - Any other information that may assist the officer to locate the student, particularly any known WHS risks associated with contacting the parents and/or student/s.
- (An updated list of the DEC Home Liaison Officers is found on the Attendance OSCAR page.)*

4.0 Budget

A budget will be provided for the professional development of staff and acquisition of resources.

5.0 Evaluation

The Principal, with delegated responsibility to the Leadership Team will be responsible for the planning, implementation and review of this policy.

Please refer to the following CSPD documents:

- Student Attendance Policy
- Student Attendance Procedures
- Student Exemption Procedures
- OSCAR – Student Attendance