



ATTENDANCE

Policy

AIM:

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

GUIDELINES:

1. The *Education Act 1958* requires that children of school age (six-sixteen years) resident in Victoria 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.
2. Education is a sequential process. Absences often mean students miss important stages in the development of topics, causing them to find 'catching up' difficult.
3. Absenteeism contributes significantly to student failure at school.
4. All enrolled students are required to attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent.
5. Illness is reasonable grounds for an absence, shopping excursions or birthday parties are not.
6. Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly, and are only absent if ill or if absolutely necessary.
7. Parents have a further responsibility to provide a written note or return a completed 'Reason for Absence' form to the school explaining why an absence has occurred if they have not contacted the school to advise of a reason for an absence.
8. The school will contact parents by SMS each day indicating their child is absent and seeking a reason for the absence if the school has not been notified of the absence.
9. The Principal has a responsibility to ensure that attendance records are maintained and monitored at school.
10. All student absences are recorded in both the morning and the afternoon by teachers, are aggregated on our CASES 21 database and communicated to DET.
11. For those students who have unexplained absences of five consecutive days, the classroom teacher or the Student Wellbeing Officer will phone the parents to ascertain reasons for non-attendance.
12. The Department of Education and enrolment auditors may seek student attendance records.
13. The Principal has a further responsibility to ensure that unexplained absences are investigated, and that high levels of absenteeism are adequately explained.
14. The Principal / Assistant Principal / Wellbeing Leader will contact parents of students with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences, with the view to developing and implementing strategies to minimise absences.
15. 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/or the Regional office.
16. Student attendance & absence figures will appear on student June & Dec. reports.
17. Parents of students with considerable absences throughout a year (20+ days a year), will be notified that 'repeating' the school year may be the only option for catching up on missed tuition. NB. Students who go overseas for a term or more, without attending school, will be tested on return and depending on results may be required to repeat that year of schooling.
18. Aggregated student attendance data is reported to DET and the wider community each year as part of the annual report.
19. Epping Views Primary School will maintain a monthly and term attendance award program for the class with the highest attendance and a yearly award for students with 100% attendance.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

October 2015