

YARRA ROAD PS

Attendance

POLICY

Yarra Road Primary School is committed to implementing a culture of child safety, inclusive of all school environments, in and outside of school hours and practices zero tolerance of child abuse.

Rationale:

Students of school age (6 to 17 years) that reside 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, have a shared enrolment with a specialist setting, have received exemption from the Regional Director or are enrolled in correspondence education.

Policy Statement:

The aims of this policy are

- To maximise learning opportunities by ensuring student absenteeism is kept to a minimum
- To put in place agreed processes for managing student absences within the school
- To create a parent culture that views regular school attendance and communication of student absences to the school as important

Implementation:

Teachers will:

Accurately mark rolls by 9.15am and 2.15pm daily

Follow up on consistent lateness/absence

Monitor student attendance and contact parents or inform Assistant Principal if there are frequent absences

Reinforce the message of “It’s not OK to be Away”

Parents will:

Ensure their child is at school every day unless there is a legitimate reason for the child’s absence

Provide an explanation for their child’s absence via Compass, email or note.

Students will:

Attend school regularly

The School will:

Follow up attendance of those students identified as having unsatisfactory attendance or persistent lateness. Place articles in the newsletter about school attendance. See appendix below for the potential impact absence has on student learning.

At Yarra Road we consider attendance less than 90% to be detrimental to the student’s education and a letter will be sent home informing parents of unexplained absence for them to then explain to the school why this is the case.

Review: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3 year review.

This Policy was last ratified by School Council in 2018

Appendix:

How many days has your child missed this semester?

0 – 6: This is within normal range.

A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.

7 – 10: This attendance rate is below average.

A child with this attendance rate could miss over 1 year of schooling between Prep and Year 10.

11 – 20: This is a poor attendance rate.

A child with this attendance rate could miss out on up to 2 years of schooling between Prep and Year 10.

20+: This is a very poor attendance rate.

A child with this attendance rate could miss over 2.5 years of schooling between Prep and Year 10.

Remember:

- Students need to attend school regularly to make the most of educational opportunities.
- There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement later in life.
- Poor patterns of attendance in the early years lead to poor patterns of attendance throughout the school years.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult to form positive relationships with their peers.