

Overport Primary School

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Rationale:

- The *Education Training & Reform Act 2006* requires that children of school age (six-seventeen 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.

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.
- All student absences are recorded in both the morning and the afternoon by teachers, are aggregated on our CASES21 database and communicated to the Department of Education & Training.
- 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 telephone or email the school explaining why an absence has occurred, immediately following the absence.
- To minimize the number of unexplained absences, teachers are to ensure that verbal notifications of absences are passed on to the office in a timely manner.
- After 3 consecutive days of unexplained absence, the classroom teacher will contact parent or guardian by telephone to determine reason for absence.
- The principal has a responsibility to ensure that attendance records are maintained and monitored at school.
- The principal has a further responsibility to ensure that unexplained absences are investigated, and that high levels of absenteeism are adequately explained.
- The principal will contact parents of students with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences, with the view to developing and implementing strategies to minimise absences.
- The office will generate a letter to parents as required, in regards to unexplained 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 Education & Training and/or Department of Health & Human Services.
- 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.
- The Department of Education & Training and enrolment auditors may seek student attendance records.

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....

June 2016