ATTENDANCE:

IT’S NOT OK TO STAY AWAY

It’s not ok … because school enables children to build on their knowledge and skills each year.

It’s not ok … because children can miss out on the basic skills and may experience difficulties later with their learning.

It’s not ok … because school helps children build confidence in areas such as communication, teamwork, organisation, and social skills.

It’s not ok … because going to school is a legal requirement and there may be fines applied for non attendance.

The law says that all children must attend school up until the end of the year that they turn seventeen (17) years of age. Under the law, parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school on all school days. Parents must not keep their child away from school for minor reasons.

It’s not ok … to be soft on attendance because we want all students to have the best opportunity to be successful at school.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS
Under Western Australian law (School Education Act 1999), parents must send their children to school unless:

- they are too unwell;
- they have an infectious disease;
- the Principal is provided with a genuine and acceptable reason.

Parents must let the school know via written note within three days why their child has not attended school.

Under the law, schools must:

- monitor attendance of students;
- follow up with parents and caregivers on student absences.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR CHILD MISSES SCHOOL WITHOUT A VALID REASON?
The following steps will be taken until the issue is resolved:

- the school will ask the parent for an explanation;
- the school will meet with the parent to discuss ongoing issues and plan a response;
- in the event of attendance issues remaining unresolved, the case may be referred to the local district education office;
- a school attendance panel may be set up to review the steps taken and provide advice;
- in some cases parents may be fined.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What should I do if my child is unwell?
A: Inform the school by phone and provide a written note explaining the situation to the student’s tutor upon return to school.

Q: What should I do if my child refuses to go to school?
A: Contact the school as soon as possible and the school will arrange support and advice.

Q: What should I do if we are on holiday during school time?
A: Holidays should be arranged in the designated school holiday periods.

Q: Can I take my child out of school for social occasions?
A: Social occasions should be organised out of school hours.

Q: Will my child be marked absent from school if he/she is doing a TAFE, VET, or community based programme?
A: No, as long as this is part of the school programme. Attendance at these programmes is also monitored by the school.

Please direct any queries regarding attendance to:

Mr Ian Masarei
Deputy Principal