ATTENDANCE:

IT’S NOT OK TO STAY AWAY

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

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

It’s not ok … because school helps students 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 states that all students must attend school up until the end of the year in which 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 may not keep their child away from school for minor reasons.

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

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

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

Parents must let the school know by 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 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 by school and parents 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 early in the morning 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 as parent if we are on holiday during school time?
A: Holidays should be arranged in the designated school holiday periods.

Q: May 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 an approved school programme. Attendance at such approved programmes must also be monitored by the school.

Please direct any queries regarding attendance to the school administration.