



## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Originally released: 2015

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Review : 2019

### RATIONALE

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All students are expected to attend school unless they have significant reasons for being absent.

All students need to arrive at an appropriate time in order to prepare themselves properly for the work they have to do during the day.

The College's duty of care for students is paramount with regards to attendance.

### RESPONSIBILITY

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#### PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are expected to plan to have their children arrive at the College by 8:25 am. Where an absence is known in advance, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the College prior to the absence. If the absence is to be for an extended period of time (more than one week) then the Principal must be informed.

#### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the student to bring a signed note to the College upon his/her return from an undocumented absence. Students who do not provide a note to explain the reason(s) for being absent are initially followed up by the Homeroom Teacher, who then contacts home, if no note is received. Homeroom teachers are required to forward any absentee notes to the front office via the Homeroom folder. The front office will inform the relevant Head of Year of any persistent or ongoing absences.

#### COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITY

Student attendance is carefully monitored through a variety of measures. When a student is recorded as absent during Homeroom and Period 1, an SMS is sent to parents/guardians by the front office to verify that the absence is genuine. Staff members are also required to notify the office if any unexplained variations to student attendance occur during the day. This includes notifying the office if a student is present, but is indicated as a notified absence on the class roll. Such absences are also followed up by the front office.

It is the responsibility of the College to indicate the number of days absent on every student's report for both Semester 1 and Semester 2. This information is also provided to the Department of Education Services (DES).

## ABSENCES

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### ABSENCES DURING THE COLLEGE DAY

Parents are required to notify the College (as above), if a student does not attend school on a particular day. This is to be followed up by the provision of a note or medical certificate, as needed.

Students are not permitted to leave the College grounds, unless accompanied by a parent/guardian. If a student is required to leave the College unaccompanied, (e.g. catch a bus or drive themselves) a call by the front office, or the Deputy Principal, is made to the parent to verify.

### ABSENCE DUE TO FAMILY HOLIDAYS OR UNAPPROVED EXTENDED STUDENT LEAVE

The College strongly discourages families from taking holidays or extended leave during school time. If the absence is absolutely necessary, parents must inform the Principal in writing, well in advance, stating the reasons and dates of the anticipated absence.

Students who are absent from school due to family holidays should not expect any accommodations from the teaching staff, and may thus not be able to meet the subject completion requirements. In the case of Year 12 students, this could place at risk their ability to graduate from the College or achieve a WACE. All students are strongly advised to access SEQTA while they are absent.

### ABSENCE FROM AN ASSESSMENT TASK OR TEST

Students who miss a test or who are absent on the day an assessment task is due, must inform the College (as required for all absences) on the morning of the test. They must also provide a written note from a parent, or a Medical Certificate, to the Homeroom Teacher and the Subject Teacher, on the day they return to the College, stating a valid reason for the absence. The Subject Teacher, in conjunction with the Head of Learning Area, is to apply the College assessment policy.

### ABSENCE FROM EXAMINATIONS

To ensure fairness to all, students are expected to attend examinations as scheduled. If a student is sick, a Medical Certificate will be required, and the assessment policy will be applied by the relevant Head of Learning Area. This is in accordance with WACE guidelines and procedures.

Students who miss an examination through a documented, valid reason, will not be given a mark, to ensure their result is not compromised. They may use the examination for practice, at a later date, as arranged with the Subject Teacher and /or Head of Learning Area.

Parents are notified of examination week dates on the College Calendar, on SEQTA and in the College Newsletter. Participation in family holidays during these times is not an acceptable reason for missing an examination.

## LATE ARRIVAL

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Students should arrive at Homeroom by 8:25 am. Students who arrive after 8:30 am should report to the front office and sign in; they are recorded as being 'Late to School'.

All students are required to bring a note to explain any absences or late arrivals.

Students who arrive late on a regular basis, without a note or satisfactory explanation, will:

- on the first occasion receive a verbal warning from their Homeroom Teacher

- on the second occasion be issued with a litter duty by their Homeroom Teacher
- on the third occasion be issued with a lunchtime detention by the Homeroom Teacher
- on the fourth occasion be referred to their Head of Year for a rostered detention.

Homeroom Teachers are responsible for ensuring that measures two (2) and three (3) are supervised, either by a duty teacher or personally. The Deputy Principal will supervise the after school detention (4).

## STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

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Strategies implemented at Bunbury Catholic College not only endeavour to prevent attendance issues or problems, but also provide support for students who have difficulty with regular attendance.

1. The College has implemented whole-school classroom management strategies to promote learning programs which enable effective teaching and learning. This takes into account the skills and abilities of each student.
2. Teachers and staff endeavour to be welcoming to students and are genuinely interested in their well-being.
3. Parents are made aware of their obligations relating to student attendance, in a timely manner.
4. The College has a Choose Peer Respect Policy, which assists students in understanding their rights and responsibilities. Students are encouraged to report any instances where they feel unsafe or experiences bullying. Appropriate strategies to deal with these situations are applied, on an individual basis.
5. In order to identify attendance concerns, effective monitoring systems and processes are implemented. The recording of period by period attendance allows teachers instant data as to student absences. Homeroom Teachers notify Heads of Year, should a student's attendance drop. Attendance data is also accessed weekly by Heads of Year to determine patterns
6. The Pastoral Care Team monitors attendance issues and develops strategies and intervention plans, as needed.
7. When attendance issues begin to surface, contact is made with the family by the Homeroom Teacher, then the Head of Year or College Counsellor, as needed.
8. Interviews with the family to discuss student attendance focus on finding positive solutions, emphasising the family's capacity to impact upon a change in attendance patterns.
9. The College may establish a key contact at school, such as the Head of Year or College Counsellor, for family members to work with.
10. The College may provide a Staff Mentor, when appropriate, to assist with the improvement of attendance.
11. The College Counsellor may make home visits when students are absent for extended periods.
12. Parents and students are advised that the College may need to report prolonged or regular absence to Department of Education Services (DES).

13. The College works with Hospital services for those students who have extended absences due to illness. Students are able to access programs/work through CONEQT. In some cases, a transition back to school program is implemented.
14. It is recognised that attendance improves when the student is motivated to come to school because he/she has a recognised outcome or goal. Discuss this with your child, if he or she is reluctant to attend the College.
15. The College identifies students who wish to pursue an apprenticeship or want to leave school for opportunities in the workforce. With these students, the College offers career assistance/ guidance. The VET Coordinator provides opportunities to pursue work experience, which often leads to continued employment and/or an apprenticeship.
16. The College recognises that the partnership between parents, students and staff is paramount to the effective implementation of any strategies that aim to improve student engagement and attendance.