

Attendance Policy Our Lady of Fatima

Focus	To continue to promote school attendance of students at Our Lady of Fatima and assist parents in encouraging their child to attend school on a daily basis and promote the importance in valuing education within students and our families.
Rationale	<p>Attendance at school is a key issue. Research states that the more a child is in school this will have a strong correlation to future employment etc. (Australian Council for Educational Research 2012)</p> <p>Reducing absence and persistent absence is a vital and integral part of schools' role of educating. It is important as it:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotes children's welfare and safeguarding • ensure every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled • assists that students succeed whilst at school • assisting students having access to the widest possible range of opportunities when they leave school.
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to ensure that parents notify school of any absence (phone call to families that have not explained an absence) • Continue with the attendance policy that ensures that children are arriving at school on time and not leaving early. • Certificates about perfect attendance given out end of term and end of year. • Admin/teachers to hand out stickers encouraging attendance.
Resources being used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotional material in classrooms • Award certificates for each term • Possible end of year celebration party • Promotion of concept in newsletter • Promotion of concept at school assemblies
Outcomes expected/desired	We expect to see an increase in children being at school. Ultimately this will have effect on student achievements by better attendance. (J. Hattie, "Visual Learning" p 184)
Means of evaluation of the project	At the end of the year we will through the school attendance system investigate trends of attendance for the year.
Criteria for eligibility	<p>For a student to eligible they must fulfil all of the following criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend school every day for the whole term. • Arrive on time for class.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not leave early from school. • Exceptions: the child is representing the school/district/region state/nation at cultural or sporting events/transition interviews/days for students for secondary schooling.
<p>Frequently asked Questions</p>	<p>Q. What if I have a doctor's certificate or note about my child's absence? A. All absences for a child are expected to be explained either by a note, doctor certificate, email or phone call.</p> <p>Q. What if my child is sick but still wants to come to school? A. As a parent it is your decision about the health of your child and therefore if they are sick then it would be expected that they would be kept at home.</p> <p>Q. Can I be eligible to in term 2 if I miss a day in term 1? A. Yes as long as you don't miss a day in term 2.</p> <p>Q. Will family holidays during school term mean that my child misses out for that term? A. Yes. We expect that students are at school during term time. If your child is away for more than 10 consecutive days, they need to fill in an application for exemption. (see school website).</p> <p>Q. What if I take my child to an appointment during school time and return them during school time? A. Yes that will still be picked up as a part day absence and therefore will make the students ineligible for that term.</p>