

# Attendance Policy

## Overview

The Department for Education is accountable to the community, through the Chief Executive, for ensuring appropriate attendance in government educational programs. This is in line with our school values of Inclusion, Innovation and Integrity.

This policy is based on the following principles:

- Society has a responsibility to prepare young people for successful participation in learning and the broader community.
- Families, society, peers and educators and other significant adults influence the life choices of young people.
- Attendance has benefits and consequences that increase or decrease life choices.
- Individuals are able to accept responsibility for their participation in educational programs according to their level of development.
- Continuity of relationships and learning in an educational program is dependent upon attendance.
- Attendance is a shared responsibility between the staff of preschools and schools, parents/caregivers, children and students, and members of the wider community.
- Attendance is critically linked to the quality of the curriculum, teaching and learning and the development of relationships, which then foster improved learning outcomes and increased wellbeing for individuals and groups.
- Participation in educational programs fosters the development of personal and social skills.

Early identification of, and intervention in, poor attendance is known to improve child and student learning outcomes. Children and students who have patterns of poor attendance are at risk, as they may not achieve their potential in educational and social development.

Research has shown that once students have begun to withdraw themselves from school, and the initial cause of this remains undetected or unexplored, it is likely that the pattern of absence will continue and escalate through the student's subsequent school career.

## Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students and parents/caregivers at Whyalla Secondary College.

Education Directors and principals are responsible to the Chief Executive of the Department for implementing the Attendance Policy. Other government agencies that also have some responsibility to contribute to the attendance of children and young people include; South Australia Police (SAPOL) and the Department have a Memorandum of Understanding and a Truancy Schedule that describes the role of police officers in returning school age children and students to school. A range of support services for children, students, families and sites are also provided by other interagency staff in regards to attendance also.

## Detail

The details of the WSC Attendance Policy are in line with the WSC School Improvement.

- Attendance data is improved and supports intervention and engagement strategies.
- Use of a Learner Management System to track student attendance.
- Students are given the opportunity to engage in a variety of authentic and relevant teaching and learning programs.

## Definitions

WSC – Whyalla Secondary College

SAPOL - South Australia Police

## Supporting Information

[Attendance Key Process Statement](#)