

Attendance Management Plan and supporting STAR procedures

Strategic Priorities

Regular school attendance is important for students to achieve their educational potential. The government target is that 80% of students will be regularly attending school by 2030.

Our school currently has a range from 70 - 40% regular attendance across the four Terms of 2026 and a target of continuing to lift regular attendance towards 80% in line with the government's goal.

Board responsibilities

The board is responsible for taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the school's students attend the school when it is open for instruction.

The board will comply with the provisions in the legislation in relation to student attendance by:

- having a commitment to support students return to regular attendance
- having processes and procedures in place to support a Stepped Attendance Response to student absence that uses data-based thresholds to identify students
- recording all absences, and responding accordingly
- having an effective method in place for identifying and monitoring student absence, including identifying patterns and barriers to student attendance
- publishing this attendance management plan on the school's website.

Principal responsibilities

The principal is responsible for:

- developing and implementing a stepped attendance response aligned with the thresholds to support student attendance
- ensure that student absence is investigated, responded too and actions taken recorded aligned with the thresholds
- ensure all students, whanau and staff understand the processes and procedures that support student attendance
- Report to the board on any trends, barriers to attendance and interventions being used to support student attendance.

Procedures/supporting documentation

Attendance management Procedure - Stepped Attendance Response (STAR)- see below

Monitoring

The principal will maintain reporting of daily attendance data.

The board will receive termly attendance reporting- including information provided by the Every Day matters report. Included in this reporting will be any emerging trends, barriers to attendance, and areas of concern for the board's consideration.

Legislative compliance/ Legislation

[Education and Training Act 2020](#)

[Education Attendance rules](#)

[Education Attendance Management Plan regulations \(yet to be passed\)](#)

Reviewed: January 2026

Next review: January 2027

Attendance Management Procedure- Stepped Attendance Response

We recognise the importance of regular attendance to help our students achieve their educational potential.

Our attendance procedures ensure students are accounted for during schools' hours. This allows school staff to identify and respond to student attendance concerns.

We have a stepped attendance response to ensure we are able to identify students and offer appropriate interventions at the thresholds to support students to return to regular attendance.

We have annual targets for student attendance and work with students, whānau, whānau, staff and external agencies, where necessary to improve our levels of student attendance.

Whānau responsibilities

- ensure students attend every day they are able
- reinforce good attendance habits
- open communication with the school
- follow the school's attendance management plan and associated attendance policies and procedures.

School responsibilities

- clear communication to whānau and students on attendance expectations on enrolment, at the start of the year and each term
- communicate to whānau what steps the school will take if the student is absent from school
- monitor student attendance
- provide students with regular updates on their own attendance
- report regularly to whānau on attendance of their child.

School Procedures

The principal will appoint staff and delegate duties, so as to manage the recording of electronic student attendance register and the follow-up procedures for non- attending students.

Non-teaching staff with duties associated with our attendance system will support teachers to maintain accurate up-to-date attendance information.

Classroom teachers are responsible for recording accurate student attendance in their class each period.

Kaiarahi teachers are responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to -date records and supporting the attendance systems. They will also monitor and follow-up on lateness and other attendance issues.

Kaitiaki and Senior leaders are responsible for monitoring student attendance, ensuring that whānau are informed of attendance concerns. Senior staff and relevant personnel will be kept informed of serious student absence situations.

Whānau will receive student attendance data via weekly emails, whānau portal and termly updates.

Outside agencies will be used as appropriate to support attendance.

Students will be identified at the thresholds. Follow-up response actions will be tailored to the reasons for absence.

Patterns of attendance and specific interventions being used will be evaluated by the pastoral team/SLT termly to review outcomes and effectiveness of these interventions

Attached is the Stepped Attendance Response actions for our school. Any action taken can be considered at any threshold. All actions taken to respond to absences will be recorded in Kamer. The pastoral care team meets on a regular basis. If you have any questions about our Stepped Attendance Response or procedures, please contact Bryce Clapham.

School Stepped Attendance Response Activities

Below is our stepped attendance response for responding to individual student absence. Actions can be taken at any stage and there is no requirement to wait for a student to be identified at a threshold to take action to address non attendance. Where concerns are raised contact with whānau will occur asap to arrange a meeting.

The Dunstan Pastoral care team meets on a regular basis. Any attendance data related questions please contact Di Quinn - attendance administrator. For all other Attendance queries please contact Bryce Clapham - Deputy Principal.

Day-to-day operations			
Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Communicate with whānau	Set expectations, procedures and follow-up steps the school will take when a student is absent. Use enrolment forms, newsletters, website or other communication methods to set expectations and provide guidance to whānau	Kaiarahi Principal School board	Termly attendance features including updates on data in newsletters. Expectations and guidance for whānau published on our school website. Expectations for student attendance and steps that will be taken to address attendance included in enrolment forms. Work with whānau and students, where appropriate.
Following up absences daily	Use procedures in place (and supporting software) to quickly identify all student absences and communicate these to whānau Follow-up daily with whānau any unexplained absences	Administration team	Digital based reminder to be sent from 10 am for all unexplained absences.
Minimise disruptions to the school day and week	School boards and school leadership prioritise school hours to be for learning	School leadership team	
Assess history of new students	When enrolling, identify issues or trends in attendance history.	Kaitiaki and Senior Leadership Team (new students during year or not in year 9)	Use our “Year 9 evening” hui with whānau at the beginning of the year for year 9 students.
Escalate attendance issues as needed Develop support plans Involve other services, consider referral to Attendance Services	Seek more support as needed	All staff as appropriate.	Staff are encouraged to escalate issues according to these procedures. If you are unsure, please discuss with the Kaitiaki or SLT.

Students with less than 5 days absence (Regular attendance above 90%)

Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Communicate with whānau Maintain contact details	Identify all student absences Communicate these to whānau	Administration team or In School attendance team (if your school has one)	Follow-up all absences to confirm the reason for absence. No action taken
Provide students with regular updates on their own attendance	Provide regular reporting via online portals and classroom discussions	Kaiārahi	Updates sent to students and whānau through weekly notes
Report regularly to whānau on attendance of their child	providing weekly notes on attendance to whānau via email	Kaiārahi	Updates sent to students and whānau through weekly notes

Between 0-4 days absence all absences need to be followed up to ensure the correct code is recorded against the absence. Any students already on the attendance list from a previous term will be identified by the pastoral care team at their meetings.

Students with less than 10 days absence (5-9 days) (Irregular absence)

Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact whānau to discuss reasons for absence and impact on learning	Send Letter A or Letter 1 to whānau (use template). Phone contact to be used if this is not the first time student has met the threshold	kaiārahi (Any concerns of next steps discussion options with Kaitiaki.)	Record actions taken in Kamer. If there is no action taken due to individual circumstance- record this against the student record. Follow-up to be within 2 school days of meeting the threshold.
Support students to catch up missed learning where required	Identify missed learning objectives and consider notes or activities to bring student back up to speed	Kaiārahi and Classroom teacher	Discuss with students in whānau ora- student to follow up with appropriate subject teachers. Check no internal assessments missed. (Yr11-13)
Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers e.g. counsellor, uniform, bus pass	Contact pastoral care team if barriers identified that the school could assist with	Kaiārahi / Pastoral care team	whānau and students provided access to additional resources. Consider bus pass, uniform, counsellor/ nurse appointments

Between 5-9 days absence, investigate reasons for this absence and if there is a pattern across the year consider actions listed at higher thresholds. Record all actions taken to address non-attendance.

For students that have progressed from having higher absences, provide feedback on the positive improvement on their attendance to both student and whānau. If there is no action taken due to individual circumstance- record this against the student record.

Students with less than 15 days absence (Moderate Absence)			
Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact whānau to escalate concerns	Further contact with whānau Email and/or phone call as required for escalation. Letter B or C, Letter 2 or 3	Kaiārahi, and/or school leadership, and/or In school attendance team	Record actions taken in Kamer. If there is no action taken due to individual circumstance- record this against the student record.
Hold meeting with whānau and student (where appropriate) to analyse reasons for absence	Arrange meetings including whānau and students.	Kaiārahi, and/or Kaitiaki	Consider who is needed at this meeting.
Develop and implement a support plan tailored to the reasons and circumstances around the child's absence	Hold everyone accountable for their part in the plan.	Kaiārahi	Take action quickly where expectations aren't being met
Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers and request support from as needed	Discuss with pastoral team what further supports are available, this may include the 'Rock On' process	Kaiārahi / Kaitiaki	
Between 10-14 days absence, investigate reasons for this absence and if there is a pattern across the year consider actions listed at higher thresholds. Record all actions taken to address non-attendance. If there is no action taken due to individual circumstance- record this against the student record.			
Students with greater than 15 days absence (Chronic Absence)			
Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact whānau to escalate concerns	Further escalating email.	School leadership	
Hold a meeting with whānau and students (where appropriate) to analyse reasons for absence.	Arrange promptly for meetings including whānau and students. Consider who will be in attendance.	SLT with Kaiārahi / Kaitiaki	Plan to return student to regular attendance
Request support from Attendance Service or other agencies as needed Participate in multi-agency response	Refer to Ministry of Education attendance services or other agencies Support access to services and collaborating with specialists	Pastoral care team decision	Before referral check all previous actions like support plans are in place. Resources and supports will continue to be provided as appropriate Reintegration plan in place to return student to regular attendance
Maintain implementation and monitoring of support plan	Hold everyone accountable for their part in the plan, and take action quickly where expectations aren't being met	Pastoral care team	Support plan in place Continue monitoring Steps taken to reintegrate student
Over 15 days absence, investigate reasons for this absence and refer to Kaitiaki and/or pastoral team for further actions. Record all actions taken to address non-attendance. If there is no action taken due to individual circumstance- record this against the student record.			

