

Title	Attendance Policy
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1 Purpose

This policy is to outline the framework that Communicare Academy implements to monitor and manage the attendance of all students, to facilitate legislative compliance, and to maximise learning outcomes for students.

2 Scope

This policy applies to the Principal, Academy Leadership Team, Teaching Staff, Student Services Staff and Enrolments and Administration Officers.

3 Policy

3.1 Student Attendance Expectations

The Academy expects students to attend every day where possible but understand that this is not possible for all students. Where there are extenuating external factors impacting the student's ability to attend, a Modified Timetable may be created for that student in consultation with the parent/guardian and the student. This allows the Academy to record absences during the acknowledged times as approved.

It is the parent's/guardian's legal obligation to ensure their child attends school for every day they are expected to.

3.2 Modified Timetables

Modified Timetables are designed in conjunction with the parent/guardian and student where factors such as family dysfunction, being a carer, mental health issues, hospital stays, for example, impact the student's ability to attend.

The aim of a Modified Timetable is to start small and build attendance as the student becomes more comfortable with the school environment, or where the factors impacting attendance have lessened. The Modified Timetables are reviewed regularly and amended as necessary.

3.3 Reasons for Absence

Parents/Guardians are expected to notify the Academy of a student's absence as soon as possible. This can be done either by reply SMS to the Academy number or by calling reception on 08 6350 1872.

Acceptable Reasons for Absence	Unacceptable Reasons for Absence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sickness Danger of being infected by someone else who is sick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truancy – just deciding not to go to school Shopping – with or without parent/guardian

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unavoidable significant cause, e.g. death of a close friend or family member, family trauma • Attending a school approved activity such as work experience • Sporting or cultural event • Caring for a family member • Necessary appointments – Centrelink, Psychology, healthcare related • Hospital stays or recuperation at home where a doctor has given a medical certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unnecessary appointments which could be made outside of school hours – such as haircuts, beautician appointments • Holidays • Staying away because a friend is absent
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3.4 Recording Attendance

Attendance is recorded by teaching staff each lesson of the day through SEQTA.

The attendance taken during Connect and Period 1 informs the report run in SEQTA by the Enrolments and Administration Officers (EAOs) of the student absences for that day. The EAOs then send absentee messages to parents/guardians in Period 1 to notify them of their child's absence.

If communication is received from the parent/guardian as to the child's reason for absence then the EAOs will record that against the student's name. If a pattern emerges, the EAOs will refer the student to the Student Services Team for follow up.

3.5 Prolonged Absence or Unacceptable Reasons

If a student continues to be absent without a satisfactory explanation, or there is a concern regarding that absence, or where a student's attendance is below 20% the EAOs will contact the parent/guardian to investigate the reasons for the student's absence. A record of this is made in SEQTA.

If there is no engagement from the parent/guardians or there is a pattern or attendance concern emerging, the EAOs will pass the student on to the Student Support Officer or Wellbeing Manager for support.

3.6 Withdrawal from the Academy

If the Wellbeing Manager or Student Services Team cannot engage with the parent/guardian, and support strategies have not worked, the parent/guardian will be formally invited to a meeting with the Principal. This is only when other attempts at engagement have otherwise failed and where the Student Services Team are satisfied there are no extenuating factors that are impacting engagement.

Should a parent/guardian attend the meeting, then a plan for attendance and support, including a Modified Timetable, will be agreed upon during the meeting. If the parent/guardian does not attend the meeting or cancels the meeting the EAOs will attempt to arrange a second meeting.

If the parent/guardian fails to attend the second meeting and there is no engagement from the parent/guardian or student, then the student's place at the Academy may be withdrawn.

In the event of a student's withdrawal from the Academy a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian by the EAOs outlining the reasons for withdrawal and the attempts made to engage with the parent/guardian and student. The EAOs will finalise the students reports and records, file them appropriately, and send the parent/guardian any relevant work or documentation.

The EAOs will then refer the student to the Participation Team and when confirmation is received the EAOs will unenroll the student from the Academy's system.

The Principal may consider offering the student a return to the Academy upon agreed changes to behaviour, attitude, and motivation.

More detail of the withdrawal of a student's place at the Academy is contained in the *Removal of Student Procedure*.

3.7 Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Unless a student is on a Modified Timetable any absences during 9am to 2:30pm will be recorded and a reason will be expected. If a student is consistently arriving late to school, then the reasons for this will be investigated. Supportive measures will be implemented as needed.

If a student needs to leave during the day due to illness or an appointment their parent/guardian will need to sign them out or give permission for their student to leave school grounds to a staff member. If students are consistently leaving early or are leaving early for unacceptable reasons, then supportive measures will be implemented, and contact made with parent/guardian as needed.

3.8 Unapproved departure from school grounds

If a student leaves school grounds without permission staff will immediately notify the parent/guardian. A re-entry meeting will need to be booked before that student can return. During this meeting the parent/guardian, Principal, and student will need to discuss the departure and identify strategies to prevent it happening again.

If there are concerns for the student's safety after they have left school grounds, the Academy Leadership Team will contact the relevant Emergency Services authority, or any other authority as needed, to ensure the student's safety.

4 Responsibilities

Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all staff have access to SEQTA. Ensuring the policy and procedures are being followed. Ensuring the policy and procedures are current.
Head of Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all students are enrolled in the correct classes within SEQTA to facilitate accurate attendance marking. Ensuring all staff have the correctly assigned classes and ability to mark their rolls.
Enrolments and Administration Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring absentee messages are sent every day. Ensuring reasons for absences are recorded appropriately. Referring students with unsatisfactory or concerning attendance. Booking meetings with parents/guardians of students with attendance concerns. Posting letters regarding attendance concerns and withdrawals as directed by the Principal. Contacting the Participation Team and referring when needed. Maintaining accurate SEQTA records.
Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring attendance is marked each period. Notifying Student Services and the EAOs of any attendance concerns noted.

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| Parents/Guardians | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring their child is attending school on the days and times they are timetabled. Contacting the school immediately if their child is unable to attend on a timetabled day, and the reason for their absence. Understanding that lengthy, unexplained absences or absences without appropriate communication will result in the student being referred to the Participation Team. |
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5 Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

Parent/Guardian	The person holding legal responsibility for that student whether it is a birth parent, step-parent, adoptive parent, family member, or the Department of Communities Child Protection and Family Support.
CaRE School	A Curriculum and Re-engagement in Education school, established and registered solely for the education of students at educational risk.
Educational Risk	A student is at educational risk if they are of compulsory school age but are unable to participate in mainstream schooling due to disadvantage, family dysfunction, criminal behaviour, mental health issues, and other such factors.

6 Related Documents/Legislation

EDU-POL-0024	Enrolment Policy
EDU-PRO-0001	Removal of Student Procedure
	School Education Act 1999
	School Education Regulations 2000
	Parental Support and Responsibility Act (WA) 2008
	Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools

7 Appendices

8 Document Governance

Prepared by:	Rebecca Morse	Head of Teaching	20/10/2021
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