Whenuakite School

Takakawe i ngā wā katoa 'At all times we will endeavour'

Attendance and Engagement 2026

Attendance

One of the things we are continuing to focus on in 2026 is student attendance. You will hear us talking about this with you, the students and it remains a strong subject of conversation in the staff room.

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance. Building positive life long relationships.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure, family trip

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. If you are still unsure, get in touch with us and let's work together to support your learner.

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us.

If you are finding it hard to get your child to school, please talk with us so we can work together. Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school.

Our school continues to build a culture that fosters attendance every day by having:

- School staff who have strong relationships with students and family.
- A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who you are, where you come from and what you value.
- A school whānau that takes all practical steps to make sure your child is at school and progressing in their learning.
- A school that is safe and welcoming for everyone in our school community.

If you have any attendance queries and issues, please contact us so we can work together.

Engagement

Prior to school starting the teaching team has spent time organising activities and events to help engage our students with the curriculum. We are linking in more with outside providers, trips near by to grow our localised curriculum. When the students are here we do work hard to engage them in their learning, our teachers spend many hours trying to be creative and make it fun.

We are in the process of offering extra sporting, cultural and art related opportunities and these will need your support and help. I am very keen to have more students and classes going on trips and camps and this will link into our "Big Ideas" or overarching themes for the year.

Keeping the learning positive and fun, check in with the classroom teacher if your child might need extra support, guidance or care. We have other support systems that we can put in place.

Attendance Matters!

BEING ON TIME

LOST MINUTES = LOST LEARNING

3 days lost	6.5 days lost	10 days lost	13 days lost	19 days lost EACH YEAR!
5 minutes late per day	10 minutes late per day	15 minutes late per day	20 minutes late per day	30 minutes late per day

in a year!

BEING AT SCHOOL

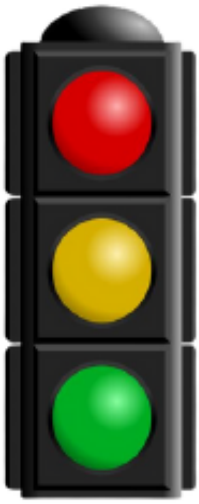
DAYS MISSED = YEARS LOST

A day here and there doesn't seem like much but...

When your child misses just...	they miss weeks per year	and years over their school life
1 day per fortnight (M T ~~W~~ T F / M T W T F)	= 4 weeks	= over 1 year missed
1 day per week (M T ~~W~~ T F / M T W ~~T~~ F)	= 8 weeks	= over 2.5 years missed

BEING AT HOME

STAY HOME TO STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

When am I too sick to come to school?

- You have a fever
- You're sniffly, coughing and have a scratchy throat with no fever
- You have green or yellow nasal discharge
- You have a killer headache
- You have a hacking cough
- You have vomited or had diarrhea in the last 48hrs