



# Attendance Management Plan

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## Overarching attendance objectives and strategic priorities

Regular school attendance is vital for the success and wellbeing of our tamariki. Attending school every day supports our tamariki to build strong foundations for their learning and social development. Regular attendance also promotes achievement success as tamariki are able to consistently build on their learning.

Our government has set a national target of 80% of students attending school at least 90% of the time. This means that tamariki should be absent for **no more than one day a fortnight** to ensure that they can have continued success at school.

At Westown School our school vision of "**Together we are KAHĀ**" underpins our approach to attendance - every tamaiti striving to their potential. Our Stepped Attendance Response outlines our process for monitoring, supporting and improving attendance - so every tamaiti can strive to be the best they can be.

## Baseline Data informing our Attendance Management Plan

Term 2 Attendance 2025 (from Every Day Matters)

Regular/Good Attendance	Worrying/Irregular Attendance
<b>47%</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>Concerning/Moderate Attendance</b>
	<b>23%</b>
	<b>Very Concerning/Chronic Attendance</b>
	<b>10%</b>

### What would success look like?

Success would look like an increase to Regular/Good Attendance, whereby more of our tamariki are attending regularly. The category where the most positive shift could be made is with the Worrying/Irregular Attendance - reducing this category would have a positive impact on Regular/Good Attendance.

While we will also focus on the other two categories, a greater shift can be made focusing on these tamariki and whānau with Worrying/Irregular Attendance.

#### Annual Target: All

Regular/Good Attendance	Worrying/Irregular Attendance
47% ↑7%	20% ↓7%
<u>54%</u>	<u>13%</u>

Rationale for 7% increase: From Term 2 2024 to Term 2 2025, our Regular Attendance improved by 8%. We are therefore setting an aspirational target to move at least 7% (10 children) from Worrying/Irregular Attendance to Regular/Good Attendance.

We aim to increase Regular Attendance by 7% every year until 2030, which would meet the government target of 80% of children attending 90% of the time by 2030.

#### Annual Target: Māori

Regular/Good Attendance	Worrying/Irregular Attendance
35% ↑10%	18% ↓10%
<u>45%</u>	<u>8%</u>

Worrying/Irregular Attendance	Concerning/Moderate Attendance
<p>18% ↑10%</p> <p><u>18%</u></p>	<p>30% ↓10%</p> <p><u>20%</u></p>

Rationale for 10% increase: This is a strong aspirational target to reduce the attendance inequity of our Māori learners compared to All learners. If we could move 10% (2 children) from Worrying to Regular, and 10% (3 children) from Concerning to Worrying, we would better improve the attendance of our Māori learners.

As with All, if we can get our Māori learners to 45% in 2026, we would be on track to meet the government target of 80% of tamariki attending 90% of the time by 2030.

### Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan

Our Attendance Management Plan sits within our Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan:

- Strategic Goal 2a: To improve attendance for all learners, particularly targeting learners who are not regularly attending school.

### Attendance Policy

Westtown School has procedures to record and monitor attendance, and to identify and follow up concerns. We share attendance expectations with tamariki and whānau and staff are responsible for reminding our community of these expectations.

As required by the Education and Training Act 202 (s35), all students between six and sixteen years old must be enrolled at school. Once enrolled, it is compulsory to attend school regularly, unless a specific exemption has been approved by the school and Ministry of Education. The board takes all reasonable steps to ensure all students enrolled at Westtown School attend when it is open for instruction (Education and Training Act 2020 s36).

Whānau have legal obligations to ensure their tamariki attend school (Education and Training Act s24). Whānau are expected to:

- Notify the school as soon as possible if their child is going to be late or absent
- Arrange appointments and trips outside of school hours or during the school holidays, where possible
- Work with the school to manage attendance concerns

## Attendance Management Procedures

### Attendance Expectations

We regularly communicate with our tamariki and whānau about attendance expectations, consisting of:

- Communication in the weekly newsletter
- Korero at Learning Conferences
- Korero on enrolment
- Facebook reminders
- Phone calls with whānau when needed

### Recording Attendance

#### Teacher (Kaiako) Responsibilities

1. Roll to be taken by the Teacher (Kaiako) **BEFORE** 9.05am.
2. Any student who arrives late to school is to report to the Office to register that they are late on the Vistab system.
3. Should a student arrive in class after the register has been taken, ask if they have reported to the Office. If they haven't, they **MUST** report to the Office.
4. Afternoon roll must be taken **BEFORE** 12.45pm.
5. There should be no need to send over paper absences to the Office, unless there is a reliever in the room or the internet is down.
6. If a parent has informed you that their child will be absent for a specific reason, ie: tangi, appointment, holiday, please add a note to their attendance (through the Roll) to inform the Office.

#### Office Responsibilities

1. The Office Managers check the texts and emails and take phone calls of absences in the morning.
2. The Office Manager checks all classes' attendance on Edge from 9.30am.
3. Any children marked with a ? are then followed up by the Office Manager:
  - a. a text is sent out to all children who are marked with an ?
  - b. When replies are received, the Office Manager updates the absence with the appropriate code.
  - c. If no reply is received, the child is marked as Truant.
4. The Office Manager will check the afternoon roll from 2pm.

#### Whānau Responsibilities

Whānau have legal obligations to ensure their tamariki attend school (Education and Training Act, s244). We expect whānau to:

- notify the kura as soon as possible if their child is going to be late or absent
- Arrange appointments or trips outside of kura hours or during school holidays where possible
- Work with us (kura) to manage attendance concerns

## Monitoring Practices

Every week, the Deputy Principal will:

- check patterns of attendance
- check for any erroneous coding
- follow up on Truant codes if no communication has been had with the whānau
- adhere to the STAR thresholds

Attendance patterns and concerns will be discussed at Senior Management Meeting every 3 weeks.

The Principal will:

- report attendance data to the School Board at every meeting.
- provide a termly attendance report to the School Board showing the analysis of data, trends and narratives
- adhere to the STAR thresholds
- review the plan termly after considering the Every Day Matters Report
- ensure termly attendance is printed, signed by each teacher and securely stored onsite for 7 years

## Absence Thresholds in reaction to the Stepped Attendance Response (STAR)

REGULAR (Good) Attendance	IRREGULAR (Worrying) Attendance	MODERATE (Concerning) Attendance	CHRONIC (Very Concerning) Attendance
100% - 90% Less than 5 days absence in a school term	89% - 80% Up to 10 days absence in a term	79% - 70% Up to 15 days absence in a term	69% - 0% 15 days or more absence in a term
<b>Whānau required to:</b>	<b>Whānau required to:</b>	<b>Whānau required to:</b>	<b>Whānau required to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure student attends every day they are able</li> <li>• Reinforce good attendance habits</li> <li>• Support other whānau to reinforce good attendance habits</li> <li>• Follow school attendance management plan and procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return student to regular attendance</li> <li>• Contact school to discuss reasons for absence and impact on learning</li> <li>• Support student to catch up on missed learning</li> <li>• Engage in supports offered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return student to regular attendance</li> <li>• Participate in meetings with school to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan</li> <li>• Implement strategies at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return student to regular attendance</li> <li>• Engage in support plan</li> <li>• Participate in regular meetings</li> </ul>

Westown School will:	Westown School will:	Westown School will:	Westown School will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with whānau about every absence</li> <li>• Maintain contact details of all parents</li> <li>• Provide students with regular updates on their own attendance</li> <li>• Report regularly to whānau on attendance of their child</li> </ul> <p><u>Support students:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attending school</li> <li>• to continue learning if unable to attend school every day,</li> <li>• including using MOE approved wellbeing or transitional plans, or health schools where appropriate</li> <li>• to access other education pathways where appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact parents to discuss reasons for absence and impact on learning</li> <li>• Support student to catch up missed learning where required</li> <li>• Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers, eg: counsellor, alternative timetables, PB4L, IY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact parents to escalate concerns</li> <li>• Hold meeting to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan</li> <li>• Develop and implement a support plan tailored to the reasons and circumstances around the child's absence</li> <li>• Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers</li> <li>• Request Support from Attendance Service or other agencies as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact parents to inform of escalated response</li> <li>• Referral to Attendance Service or other agencies as needed</li> <li>• Participate in multi-agency response</li> <li>• Maintain implementation and monitoring support plan</li> <li>• Undertake school-led prosecution, or request MOE led prosecution, when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up</li> <li>• Unenroll if student will not be returning to school</li> </ul>

### Communicating with Whānau

Ongoing communication with whānau about attendance expectations and follow up, is critical to lift attendance expectations.

In relation to STAR, our kura may use the Ministry of Education resource [Communicating with Parents about Attendance](#) to support communication with whānau and if required, escalation of attendance concerns.

Approved: 26 November 2025

Signed: *Craig Nielsen*

Review Due: November 2026

Board Presiding Member

