



## Pacific Paradise State School: Attendance Policy

### Rationale

All schools in Queensland are committed to providing safe and supportive learning environments for all students which address their educational needs.

Pacific Paradise State School's vision focuses on Engaging Minds – Empowering Futures

We recognise that social development plus academic achievement results in a student's intrinsic self-esteem and self-worth.

Our vision is achieved through

- Positive, supportive relationships
- High expectations that all students can improve
- Effective teaching, engaging students as active participants
- Safe and orderly environment

Pacific Paradise State School's attendance policy aims to promote a universal commitment to full attendance for every student.

### School community beliefs about the importance of attending school

It is important that students, staff and parents/carers have a shared understanding of the importance of attending school. Pacific Paradise State School is committed to promoting the key messages of Every Day Counts.

- Pacific Paradise State School believes all children should be enrolled at school and attend school all day, every school day
- Pacific Paradise State School monitors, communicates and implements strategies to improve regular school attendance
- Pacific Paradise State School believes truanting can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices.
- Pacific Paradise State School believes attendance at school is the responsibility the whole community.

### Responsibilities

School responsibilities:

- Maintain accurate attendance data
- Monitor attendance data for patterns and trends to inform intervention strategies and processes

Student responsibilities:

- Every student attends school every day
- Every student commits to learning to the best of their abilities



#### Parent responsibilities:

- Promote a positive attitude towards education and school attendance
- Encourage the successful implementation of their *child's* responsibilities

## Strategies

At Pacific Paradise State School, we promote 100% attendance by:

- Publically acknowledging full attendance
- Present students achieving full attendance with certificates of achievement
- Regularly celebrate improving attendance data with the school's community

## Responses to absences

At Pacific Paradise State School we are committed to achieving the following targets in improving attendance:

- Increase the school's overall attendance rate from 92.6% in 2016 to 94% by the end of 2017
- Reducing the percentage of children attending *less* than 85% of the time from 14.4% of the student population in 2016 to >10% by end of 2017
- Improve the average attendance rate of all students by 0.5%

When a student is absent without *explanation* for 3 days in a single calendar week, or a pattern of absences has been identified, the following sequence of responses will be actioned:-

- Contact between school and home will be actioned to ascertain reason for absence; **ALL** contacts will be recorded on OneSchool and Admin supervisor will be identified as a referral
- At the end of each fortnight, Admin team will download and analyse data attendance/absence data
- Parents/Caregivers of students with **UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES** > 90% of full attendance will be served with the initial 'Failure to Attend' warning notice, as per the Enforcement of Attendance Policy, 2013.
- Continued unexplained absences will be addressed as per the Enforcement of Attendance Policy, 2013 in reference to parental responsibilities and liabilities
- Continued *unexplained* absences will be reported to the Department of Child Safety

At Pacific Paradise State School the consequences or impacts of unexplained or unauthorised absences might include the following:

- Reduced opportunities for successful learning because of persistent interruptions to learning programs
- Inability to form effective social relationships
- Detention and/or withdrawal program modification to enable student/s to catch up on missed work
- Withdrawal from excursion, sporting events

## Reporting and monitoring attendance

At Pacific Paradise State School reports of absence or truanting are taken seriously. Students, parents, members of community and school staff may report an absence in the following ways:

- Student absence line: 54572333 – Option 5
- Parents are notified of an *unexplained absence* of their child as soon as practicable on the day of the student's absence using SMS communication
- Use QParents app to notify the school
- Call into the Administration Office and let our friendly staff know



## Some related resources

### ***Every Day Counts***

<http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html>

### ***Departmental Policies and Procedures***

[\*\*\*Managing Student Absences and Enrolment and Attendance at State Schools\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Roll Marking in State Schools\*\*\*](#)