



Attendance Management Plan and supporting STAR procedures – Waimate High School

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 varying termly % regular attendance and a target of lifting regular attendance to 65%+ by the end of 2026 for each term.

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 – delegated to principal/SLT
- 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 and 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 - information provided by the Every Day matters report. Included in this reporting will be any emerging trends, barriers to attendance to consider.

Legislative compliance/ Legislation

[Education and Training Act 2020](#)

[Education Attendance rules](#)

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

Reviewed: November 2025

Next review: November 2028

Attendance Management Procedure- Stepped Attendance Response

We recognize 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, parents and caregivers, staff and external agencies, where necessary to improve our levels of student attendance.

Parent/Whanau 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 parents and students on attendance expectations on enrolment, at the start of the year and each term
- Communicate to parents 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 parents 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/ LA/Pastoral Manager teachers are responsible for recording student attendance to their class each period/ half day basis.

LA and classroom teachers are responsible for monitoring and maintaining accurate and up-to -date records and supporting the attendance systems. They will also monitor and follow-up on lateness and attendance patterns with communication with home.

Pastoral Managers/ team leaders/ Senior leaders are responsible for monitoring student attendance for their respective groups, ensuring that parents are informed of attendance concerns and supporting LA teachers. Senior staff and relevant personnel will be kept informed of serious student absence situations.

Parents will receive student attendance data via fortnightly reports/ parent portal/ 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 to review outcomes and if additional steps may be required or changes made.

Attached is the Stepped Attendance Response systems for our school. These align with the government expectations for schools. Any action taken can be considered at any threshold. All actions taken to respond to absences will be recorded in Kamar. The pastoral care team meets fortnightly. If you have any questions about our Stepped Attendance Response or procedures, please contact Kellie Tagiaia in the first instance

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. Contact parents asap and arrange meeting for as soon as possible.

Pastoral care team meets Tuesday before school. Any attendance data related questions please contact your child's LA teacher or the school office in the first instance.

Day-to-day operations			
Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Communicate with parents	<p>Set expectations, procedures and follow-up steps the school will take when a student is absent.</p> <p>Use enrolment forms, newsletters, Facebook, website or other communication methods to set expectations and provide guidance to parents</p>	<p>LA teacher/pastoral Manager</p> <p>Principal/SLT</p> <p>School board</p>	<p>Termly attendance info updates on data emailed to homes.</p> <p>Regular reminders/updates in newsletters</p> <p>Expectations and guidance for parents published on our school website.</p> <p>Expectations for student attendance and steps that will be taken to address attendance included in enrolment forms.</p> <p>Work with parents and students, where appropriate.</p>
Following up absences daily	<p>Use procedures in place (and supporting software) to quickly identify all student absences and communicate these to parents</p> <p>Follow-up daily with parents any unexplained absences</p>	Administration team	Text based reminder to be sent from 10.30 am for all unexplained absences.
Assess history of new students	When enrolling, identify issues or trends in attendance history.	Pastoral manager/ Deputy Principal (new students during the year)	<p>Use our enrolment meetings with whanau for new students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss expectations and refer to enrolment documentation - Discuss any past issues - Outline actions/steps to support <p>Follow up from previous schools and attendance services</p>
<p>Escalate attendance issues as needed</p> <p>Develop support plans</p>	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 DP in charge of attendance and pastoral manager.

Involve other services, consider referral to Attendance Services			
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Students with less than 5 days absence

Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Communicate with parents/caregivers Maintain contact details	Identify all student absences Communicate these to parents	Administration team and LA's	Follow-up all absences to confirm reason for absence. No action taken
Provide students with regular updates on their own attendance	Provide regular reporting via online portals and classroom discussions	LA Teacher/Classroom teachers	Updates sent to students and parents through fortnightly reports/ KAMAR Portal. Conversation follow up from LA as needed
Report regularly to parents on attendance of their child	Providing fortnightly report that include attendance rates to parents via email	Administration team	Updates sent to students and parents through fortnightly reports.

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 attendance list from previous term will be identified by the pastoral care team at their weekly meetings.

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

Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact parents to discuss reasons for absence and impact on learning	After 5 days send email to parent (use template LA step 1 in KAMAR). Rate to also be below 90% Phone contact to be used if this is not the first time student has met the threshold	LA Teacher (Any concerns of next steps discussion options with year level pastoral manager/DP attendance.)	Record actions taken in KAMAR If there is no action taken due to individual circumstance - record this against student record. Follow-up as soon as possible 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	Classroom Teacher/LA/Pastoral Manager	Discuss with student in LA time - 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 these	LA Teacher/ Pastoral care team	Parents and student provided/offered access to additional resources. Consider supports eg, uniform, counsellor/ nurse appointment, public health support, enabling youth, blue light, attendance/behaviour logs etc record in KAMAR. Attendance Services Support may be required alongside

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 student record.

Students with less than 15 days absence (10 – 14 days)

Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact parent to escalate concerns	Further contact with parent Email and phone call as required for escalation. (Use template LA Step 2 in KAMAR)	LA Teacher Pastoral Manager support	Record actions taken in KAMAR If there is no action taken due to individual circumstance - record this against student record in KAMAR with the reasons.
Hold meeting with parent/caregiver and student (where appropriate) to analyse reasons for absence	Arrange meeting including parents and student.	LA Teacher, and/or Pastoral Manager	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. This is completing the WHS Attendance Goal Plan by making a copy of the electronic template and completing. This should then be attached to the KAMAR entry as a PDF copy.	LA Teacher, and/or Pastoral Manager	Take action quickly where expectations aren't being met Record Meeting in KAMAR – Attendance and PDF copy of completed goal plan attached to entry.
Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers and request support from external supports as needed	Discuss with pastoral team what further supports are available	LA Teacher/ Pastoral Manager	Attendance Services Support may be required alongside

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 student record.

Students with greater than 15 days absence (15+ days)

Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact parent to escalate concerns	Further escalating email (use LA Attendance Follow up Further Absence – Step 3 template in KAMAR)	LA Teacher	Record in KAMAR as an Attendance actions.
Hold meeting with parent/caregiver and student (where appropriate) to analyse reasons for absence.	Arrange promptly for meeting including parents and student. Consider who will be in attendance. Review attendance plan and how it has been going	Pastoral manager	Organise who will be involved in meeting Plan to return student to regular attendance Record In KAMAR - 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 as required Support access to services and collaborating with specialists	Pastoral Manager - liaise with DP in charge of attendance. Pastoral Manager & DP of Year level	Before referral check all previous actions like support plan 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 and review where needed	Pastoral Manager/DP	Support plan in place Continue monitoring Steps taken to reintegrate student
Over 15 days absence, investigate reasons for this absence and refer to dean 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 student record.			