

Attendance Management Plan and supporting STAR procedures

Strategic Priorities

Regular school attendance is essential for students to achieve their educational potential. The government's target is that 80% of students will be regularly attending school by 2030. By December 2026, increase regular attendance (90%+) and reduce chronic absenteeism (below 80%) by 20–25% through targeted support for learners.

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:

- Committing 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
- 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 to, and that actions taken are 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- including information provided by the Every Day Matters report. Included in this reporting will be any emerging trends, barriers to attendance, and areas of concern for the board's consideration.

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 recognise the importance of regular attendance to help our students achieve their educational potential.

Our attendance procedures ensure students are accounted for during the school's hours. This allows school staff to identify and respond to student attendance concerns.

We have a stepped attendance response to ensure we can identify students and offer appropriate interventions at the thresholds to support their return to regular attendance.

We have annual targets for student attendance and work with students, parents and caregivers, staff, and an external agency, 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 the 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 teachers are responsible for recording student attendance in their class on a half-day basis.

Class teachers are responsible for maintaining accurate, up-to-date records and supporting attendance systems. They will also monitor and follow up on lateness and attendance, and other attendance issues.

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

Parents will receive ongoing student attendance data via the HERO parent portal.

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 SLT termly to review outcomes and effectiveness of these interventions

Attached is the Stepped Attendance Response Activities for our school. Any action taken can be considered at any threshold. All actions taken to respond to absences will be recorded in Hero. The pastoral care team meets fortnightly. If you have any questions about our Stepped Attendance Response or procedures, please contact Christine Matijasevich.

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 (ideally within two school days) and arrange a meeting for as soon as possible.

The pastoral care team/Senior Leadership Team meets every two weeks. Any attendance related questions, please contact Diane Harrison, office assistant - office@orakei.school.nz or contact Deputy Principal Christine Matijasevich - christinem@orakei.school.nz

Day-to-day operations			
Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Communicate with parents	Set expectations, procedures and follow-up steps the school will take when a student is absent. Use enrolment forms, newsletters, website or other communication methods to set expectations and provide guidance to parents	Class teacher Principal School board	Termly attendance features including updates on data in newsletters. Expectations and guidance for parents published on our school website. Expectations for student attendance and steps that will be taken to address attendance included in enrolment forms. Work with parents and students, where appropriate.
Following up absences daily	Use procedures in place (and supporting software - Hero) to quickly identify all student absences and communicate these to parents Follow-up daily with parents any unexplained absences	Administration team	Text based reminder to be sent from 10 am for all unexplained absences.
Minimise disruptions to the school day and week	School boards and school leadership prioritise school hours to be for learning	School leadership team	
Assess history of new students	When enrolling, identify issues or trends in attendance history.	Assistant/Deputy Principal (new students during year that are not Year 0/1)	Use our "welcome to school" hui with whanau at the beginning of each term for new students.
Escalate attendance issues as needed Develop support plans Involve other services, consider referral to Attendance Services	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 Christine Matijasevich

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	Follow up on all absences to confirm the reason for absence. No action taken
Report regularly to parents on the attendance of their child	Attendance information for parents is available on Hero at all times through the Parent Portal.	Class teacher	Always available to parents on Hero through the Parent Portal

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 the 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 an email to parents. Phone contact to be used if this is not the first time the student has met the threshold	Class Teacher (Any concerns about next steps discussion options with AP/DP)	Record actions taken in Hero. If there is no action taken due to individual circumstances, record this against the student's record. Follow up within two school days of meeting the threshold.
Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers e.g. counsellor, transitioned start, external agency referrals	Contact the pastoral care team if barriers are identified that the school could assist with	Class Teacher/ Pastoral care team	Parents and students provided access to additional resources.

**Between 5-9 days of 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 who have progressed from having higher absences, provide feedback on the positive improvement in their attendance to both the student and whānau.
If no action is taken due to individual circumstances, record this in the student record.**

Students with less than 15 days absence			
Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact the parent to escalate concerns	Further contact with the parent Email and/or phone call as required for escalation.	Class Teacher, and/or DP	Record actions taken in Hero. If no action is taken due to individual circumstances, record this in the student record.
Hold a meeting with the parent/caregiver and the student (where appropriate) to analyse the reasons for the absence.	Arrange a meeting with the student and parents.	Class Teacher, and/or DP	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.	Class Teacher	Take action quickly where expectations aren't being met
Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers and request support as needed	Discuss with the pastoral team what further supports are available	Class Teacher/DP	
Between 10-14 days of 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 of absence			
Activities	Practice	Responsible Person	Notes & Actions
Contact the parent to escalate concerns	Further escalating email	School leadership	
Hold a meeting with the parent/caregiver and the student (where appropriate) to analyse the reasons for the absence.	Arrange a meeting promptly, including parents and the student. Consider who will be in attendance.	Deputy principal with the class teacher	Plan to return the student to regular attendance
Request support from Attendance Services or other agencies as needed Participate in a multi-agency response	Refer to the Ministry of Education attendance services or other agencies Support access to services and collaborate with specialists	Pastoral care team decision/SENCO	Before referral, check that all previous actions, like the support plan, are in place. Resources and supports will continue to be provided as appropriate Reintegration plan in place to return the student to regular attendance
Maintain implementation and monitoring of the support plan	Hold everyone accountable for their part in the plan, and take action quickly where expectations aren't being met	Pastoral care team/SENCO	Support plan in place Continue monitoring Steps taken to reintegrate the student
Over 15 days of absence, investigate the reasons for this absence and refer to the DP and/or pastoral team for further actions. Record all actions taken to address non-attendance. If there is no action taken due to individual circumstances, record this against the student record.			