



# Sacred Heart School Timaru - Attendance Management Plan and supporting STAR procedures

## 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.

## Board responsibilities

As required by the Education and Training Act 2020 (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 attend when it is open for instruction (Education and Training Act 2020 s36).

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
- 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 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.
- provide a termly attendance report to the School Board showing the analysis of data, trends and narratives

## 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 \(School Attendance\) Regulations 2024](#)


### 2026 Attendance Targets

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

### 2025 Background Data


This is the data related to term 4, 2025:

#### How many students regularly attended school this term?

 Regular Attendance

**72%**


Compared to 71% in Term 4, 2024

 Irregular Absence 21%

Compared to 22% in Term 4, 2024






 Moderate Absence 5%

Compared to 5% in Term 4, 2024

 Chronic Absence 2%

Compared to 2% in Term 4, 2024

#### What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

-  (M) Illness / Medical Absence 63%
-  (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 16%
-  (G) Holiday 13%
-  (J) Explained and Approved 8%
-  (T) Unexplained / Trivial 0%

#### How many students were on time to class?

**95%** of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

### 2026 School Target:

Our focus is on the “irregular” group (from Term 4, 2025) who are close to regular attendance, and in our experience, are where the greatest shifts can happen. Other groups will be positively impacted by association as well.

- **75% of the ākonga who had “irregular” attendance in 2025 will achieve “regular” attendance in 2026.**



# Attendance Management Procedure- Stepped Attendance Response

## 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.

## Parent/Whanau 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 tamaiti 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

## School responsibilities

Our 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.

## School Procedures

### Tumuaki Responsibilities

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.

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.

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 termly to review outcomes and effectiveness of these interventions

### Kaiako Responsibilities

1. Roll to be taken by the Akomanga Kaiako **BEFORE** 9.15am.
2. Any tamaiti who arrives late to school is to report to the Office to inform the administration team.
3. Should a tamaiti arrive in class after the register has been taken, ask if they have reported to the Tari. If they haven't, they **MUST** report to the Tari.
4. Afternoon roll must be taken **BEFORE** 1.50pm.
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 to inform the Office.

### Tari 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 HERO from 9.15am.
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 1.50pm.



## Monitoring Practices

**Daily** the Attendance Officer/Office Manager will:

- Follow up via phone on any back to back medical or unexplained absences, updating attendance notes on HERO with the information and outcome of these conversations

**Every week**, the Pastoral Leader 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 our Leadership hui every fortnight.

**The Principal will:**

- report attendance data twice termly to the School Board
- provide a termly attendance report to the School Board showing the analysis of data, trends and narratives
- adhere to the STAR thresholds
- Facilitate discussion with the leadership team termly to review the Everyday Matters report and attendance plan, considering updated actions that may need to occur

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 student management system.



## School Stepped Attendance Response Activities

Below is our stepped attendance response for responding to individual student absence.

Regular Attendance Over 90% attendance	Irregular Between 81 – 90%	Moderate Between 71 – 80%	Chronic 70% or less
Less than 5 days absence in a school term	Up to 10 days absence in a term	Up to 15 days absence in a term	15 days or more absence in a term
Whānau	Whānau	Whānau	Whānau
<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>
Kura	Kura	Kura	Kura
<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</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,</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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact parents to inform of escalated response</li> <li>• Request support from Attendance Service or other agencies as needed</li> <li>• Participate in multi-agency response</li> <li>• Maintain implementation</li> </ul>