



ST. BRIGID'S SCHOOL COLLIE ATTENDANCE AND ABSENTEEISM POLICY

Implemented: 2018, 2020
Next Review: 2022

1. RATIONALE

Correct recording of student attendance is a legal requirement for teachers in schools in Western Australia.

2. PURPOSE

Our purpose is to provide students with the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability and to create a clear, inclusive and simple attendance policy that promotes high expectations of student attendance. We are committed to improving attendance by:

- Promoting a positive and supportive school environment
- Ensuring consistent follow up of absences with parents/carers
- Working with students and families to reduce absenteeism

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to St Brigid's Collie.

4. ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

4.1 At St Brigid's School, attendance records of students will be taken at the commencement of each day by 10am (to cater for the morning session) and by 1.50pm (to cater for the afternoon session).

4.2 Attendance is marked in half day increments. These increments being before and after 12.00 noon. A student must be present for at least two hours of each half day increment to be recorded as in attendance.

4.3 Attendance notifications must be recorded using the online attendance portal provided through the Catholic Education of WA's system wide preferred method, SEQTA.

Step 1: By 10:30am the administration officer checks SEQTA. Any students with unexplained absence have their guardians contacted by SMS.

Step 2: Parents are to ring the front office or email: admin@stbrigidscollie.wa.edu.au explaining the absence, preferably by 9.00am.

5. ACCEPTED FORMS OF RESOLVED NON-ATTENDANCE CONTACT

The following methods of non-attendance reasoning will be accepted by St Brigid's Primary School:

5.1 An email sent to the student's teacher or St Brigid's administration. This must contain the writer's full name, date and a reason for the absence.

5.2 Completion of the Online Absentee Form available on Connected App

5.2 A note sent to school signed by a parent or legal guardian containing the writer's full name, date and reason for absence.

5.3 Direct contact or telephone call from a parent or legal guardian to the class teacher or school administration. Verbal notification is an approved method but must be accompanied by a legitimate reason. If no reason is given, the absence must be listed as unresolved, so it can be followed up by Admin.

6. TEACHER RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 Teachers have the responsibility of completing the Attendance Register each day at two different intervals within the day.

6.2 Teacher Assistants will take responsibility for completing this information when the teacher deems it necessary.

6.3 In the event that no reason is provided for an absence, teachers are required to follow up with parents or guardians on the reasons according to the Accepted Forms listed above.

6.4 The inability of parents to provide a suitable reason for absence must be noted for future reference and accountability of the teacher.

6.5 A note outlining reasons for a child's absence sent to school by a parent or legal guardian is to be forwarded to the class teacher. All hard copy absentee notes will be kept by class teacher until the end of the year, when they sent to the office and are archived.

6.6 A parent or guardian may phone the office to notify that the student is absent for the day. The Administration Officer will update SEQTA with this information.

7. LATE STUDENTS

Students who arrive late to school after the school bell at 8.45am must be processed through the front office (with the exception of Kindergarten and Pre-primary students, who will be delivered straight to the classroom and processed through SEQTA by staff). Administration staff will 'tag' student in using SEQTA Kiosk. The student will receive a Late Card to deliver to the teacher, which is proof that the child has been processed through the front office.

8. EARLY DEPARTURES

Students who leave school early must be processed through the front office. The parent/guardian will need to complete the Student Sign In/Out Register in the administration office. With the exception of Kindergarten and Pre-primary students, who will be collected straight to the classroom and processed through SEQTA by staff.

9. EXTENDED ABSENCES

If a child is to be away for longer than a two-week period, permission must be sought from the Principal in the form of a signed letter. Once permission is granted, the letter will be forwarded to the administration, where the details will be recorded in SEQTA. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the student keeps up-to-date with reading and online programs such as Mathletics and Reading Eggs. No additional work will be provided by the classroom teacher. Parents may elect for their child to complete a diary or blog during their absence.

10. UNEXPLAINED LONG-TERM ABSENCES

If a student has been away from school for longer than a week, without an approved explanation and no contact from parents or guardians, then the school will contact the "Absentee Officer" at the Education Department for follow-up processes to be implemented. The school must have ensured the process for unexplained absence has been followed up every day of that week before making contact with the Education Department.