



Attendance and Engagement Strategy 2017-2020



Draft



NARACOORTE SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attendance and Engagement STRATEGY 2017-2020

Rationale

The DECD Wellbeing Framework for Learning and Life recognises the importance of learner wellbeing and its effect on learning outcomes. Consistent attendance and engagement with quality education opportunities are crucial for learning success. Naracoorte South Primary School's Attendance Strategy keeps at the fore a wellbeing approach while adhering to the DECD Attendance Requirements policy 2009.

Attendance Requirements

- A child who is at least six years old but not yet sixteen is of compulsory school age and is a 'student'.
- Children who are not of compulsory age but who have enrolled at school are subject to the same participation requirements as those of compulsory age.
- Students are required to be enrolled at a registered or non- government school. Students must attend school on every day that instruction is provided for them, unless the Minister has granted an exemption from school attendance.

Goals

In accordance with the Attendance Strategy for South Australian Pre-schools and schools (draft consultation) we aim to see;

A reduction of 10% in the number of students identified as chronic non-attenders
Closing of the Gap in attendance rate of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students to 5%
A reduction in suspensions of Children under Guardianship of the Minister by 5%.

Key Actions

Aspire

At Naracoorte South Primary school we will continue to promote the importance of education from the early years and throughout a student's schooling years by-

- Including attendance requirements in the Parent Handbook and on our website
- Holding regular parent sessions around a variety of topics including health and wellbeing, attendance, reading and intervention
- Continuing to connect with a range of services and organisations to work with families and young people through our KidsMatter framework.
- Including regular articles in the school newsletter around the correlation of attendance and engagement with learning success.
- Providing early learning resources at our weekly Bounce and Bop sessions for babies to four year olds.
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Engage

At Naracoorte South Primary School we will build on our practices to actively engage children, young people and their families in education opportunities by-

- Continuing to include wellbeing in our Site Improvement Plan, with a dedicated student wellbeing PLC.
- Continuing to work within the KidsMatter framework to ensure inclusive practices include valuing diversity, individual capabilities and interests, along with promoting strategies for positive mental health. In the first two weeks of the school year, all children take part in a KidsMatter program which includes individual and class goal setting, devising a class code of conduct and exploring strategies for increasing engagement and staying mentally healthy.
- Embedding social skills program Play is the Way in every classroom and in the yard.

- The inclusion of attendance strategies and goals in One Plans where required.
- Adhering to Restorative Justice Principles when working through conflict.
- Providing a free breakfast club every morning for all students who wish to access it.
- The opening of the Wellbeing Centre to allow a hub for children and their families to access support, including information and resources and access to the school counsellor and PCW.
- Free access to a Link Bus which allows children to travel from the North side of town, and also to access Out of School Hours care at Naracoorte Primary.
- A range of break time and after school activities to meet the needs and interest of all students.

Succeed

At Naracoorte South Primary School, we will work together to address barriers to attendance, learning and wellbeing to support children and young people to be actively involved in their learning by-

- Actively monitoring attendance data via the Education Dashboard to ensure timely identification and intervention for children at risk of chronic non-attendance.
- Communicating effectively to parents and caregivers their responsibilities around attendance and engagement-

*Parents/ caregivers are responsible for getting their children to and from school.
Children should attend school every day when instruction is provided unless the school receives a valid reason for absence (eg illness).
Parents/ caregivers are required to provide appropriate explanation for student's non-attendance. This usually comprises a letter, telephone call and or a medical certificate.
Three days consecutive absence requires a written explanation from parents.
When a student is late for school, it is required that a parent and/or student explain the reason for lateness and enter the reason in the Sign In /Out folder at the front desk.
Parents/ caregivers must inform the school in writing of any likely extended absence such as a family holiday, so that teachers can arrange work at home for the student and also that an exemption from school may be recommended by the principal.*

- Working closely with families, our Aboriginal Education and Community Worker and relevant services and organisations to address barriers to attendance and engagement for our ATSI students.
- Ensuring regular and timely correspondence between school staff and Support Services staff, including the Social Worker: Attendance and Engagement to ensure consistent approaches and best practice.
- Supporting teachers to carry out their responsibilities via thorough induction which includes

*Monitoring attendance of each child in the class.
Recording any student absence with reason for absence in the class roll, forwarding daily to front office.
Monitor punctuality of each child in the class and checking recording in the front office Sign In/ Out folder.
Ensuring contact is made with families after any unexplained absence
Discussing absentee concerns with the Principal.
Co-ordinating the collection of student work where students for acceptable reasons are unable to attend and for whom work has been requested.
Making explicit the links between regular attendance, participation and engagement and success, with students in class*

- Implementing the principal's responsibilities which includes

Regularly monitoring attendance through the Education Dashboard

Identifying students at risk of chronic non-attendance and ensuring supports are put in place to reduce the risk.

The Principal, class teacher and Administration Officer documenting interventions and strategies such as, phone calls, home visits, referrals to attendance and place these in the student's file.

The principal has delegated authority from the Minister to approve applications for temporary exemption from school attendance for periods of up to one calendar month. Parents/caregivers should apply in writing and principal approval is written on school letterhead. A copy is retained in school files, together with the application that is to be made available as required, to appropriate departments.

All applicants for temporary exemptions exceeding one calendar month, and for permanent exemptions, are completed on form ED175 and forwarded to the Student Attendance Counsellor.

Referring to the Social Worker: Attendance and Engagement, when required.

Ensuring all mandatory notification protocols have been followed.