



Rationale

‘The Catholic school should be able to offer young people the means to acquire the knowledge they need in order to find a place in a society which is strongly characterized by technical and scientific skill. But at the same time, it should be able, above all, to impart a solid Christian formation.’ *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*

Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat are funded by governments to be open for four full terms, maximising learning opportunities for students. Research indicates strongly that school attendance matters for achievement and everyday counts.

Background

Regular attendance for all school-aged children is important in their educational and social development. Children who attend school regularly have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher income levels across their lifespan. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age to maximise their life opportunities. The school will communicate these expectations to parents on enrolment and through regular updates such as the school newsletter. Students are expected to attend school during normal school hours every day of each school term unless:

- There is an approved exemption
- The student is registered for home schooling and has only partial enrolment

Students are considered to be in attendance at school if they are involved in an offsite curriculum program or activity organised by the school.

Policy Statement

All Schools will maximise learning opportunities for students, by ensuring:

- Schools are open for approximately 40 weeks (up to 200 days) per year, as designated by the Victorian Minister of Education and DOBCEL.
- Staff are allocated appropriate vacation time, in accordance with applicable industrial awards, including gazetted public holidays.
- Staff are engaged in appropriate professional learning and planning.
- Student attendance rates are recorded and monitored

Principles

All students in all schools are entitled to an excellent education, allowing each student to reach his or her full potential so that he or she can succeed, achieve his or her aspirations, and contribute fully to his or her community, now and in the future.

The quality of a student’s education should not be limited by where the student lives, the income of his or her family, the school he or she attends, or his or her personal circumstances.

The quality of education should not be limited by a school’s location, particularly those schools in regional Australia (Australian Education Act 2013).

References

Catholic Church, Congregation for Catholic Education, The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, St Paul Publications, Homebush, NSW, 2002, 14, p. 17, p. 23.

Public Holidays Act 1993

Education and Training Reform Act 2006

Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017

Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cwlth.) (ESOS Act).

Australian Education Act 2013

Related Policies and Procedures

DOBCEL Planning the School Year Policy and Procedures

DOBCEL Attendance Monitoring Procedures

Student Attendance: Every Day Counts, Department of Education and Training Victoria