



## Attendance Policy

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### Location

All Coburg High School policies are located under the 'Community' tab on Compass, sub-section 'School Documentation' and then 'Policies'.

### Language Opportunities



If you require this document to be translated into another language, please contact:

[info@coburg.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@coburg.vic.edu.au)

Se si richiede che questo documento sia tradotto in un'altra lingua, si prega di contattare:

[info@coburg.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@coburg.vic.gov.au)

Εάν ζητήσετε να μεταφραστεί αυτό το έγγραφο σε άλλη γλώσσα, επικοινωνήστε με την ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση [info@coburg.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@coburg.vic.edu.au)

यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज़ को किसी अन्य भाषा में अनुवादित करने की आवश्यकता है, तो कृपया संपर्क करें:

[info@coburg.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@coburg.vic.edu.au)

اگر شما نیاز دارید که این سند به زبان دیگری ترجمه شود ، لطفاً با این آدرس تماس بگیرید: [info@coburg.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@coburg.vic.edu.au)

หากคุณต้องการแปลเอกสารนี้เป็นภาษาอื่นกรุณาติดต่อ: [info@coburg.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@coburg.vic.edu.au)

إذا كنت تريد ترجمة هذا المستند إلى لغة أخرى ، فيرجى الاتصال بـ: [info@coburg.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@coburg.vic.edu.au)

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to

- ensure all children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a registered school and attend school every day the school is open for instruction
- ensure students, staff and parents/carers have a shared understanding of the importance of attending school
- explain to school staff and parents the key practices and procedures Coburg High School has in place to
  - support, monitor and maintain student attendance
  - record, monitor and follow up student absences.

## Scope

This policy applies to all students at Coburg High School.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training's [School Attendance Guidelines](#). It does not replace or change the obligations of Coburg High School, parents and School Attendance Officers under legislation or the School Attendance Guidelines.

## Definition

*Parent* – includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for the child, including parental responsibility under the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

## Policy

Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 to 17 years (unless an exemption from attendance or enrolment has been granted).

Daily attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they do not fall behind both socially and developmentally. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and participation in their community.

Students are expected to attend Coburg High School during normal school hours every day of each term unless:

- there is an approved exemption from school attendance for the student
- the student has a dual enrolment with another school and has only a partial enrolment in Coburg High School, or
- the student is registered for home schooling and has only a partial enrolment in Coburg High School for particular activities.

Both schools and parents have an important role to play in supporting students to attend school every day.

Coburg High School believes all students should attend school all day, every day when the school is open for instruction and is committed to working with its school community to encourage and support full school attendance.

### **Responsibilities of the school**

Our school will identify individual students or cohorts who are vulnerable and whose attendance is at risk and/or declining and will work with these students and their parents to improve their attendance through a range of interventions and supports.

### **Responsibilities of the student**

Students will be committed to attending school every day, arriving on time and being prepared to learn. Our students are encouraged to approach a teacher and seek assistance if there are any issues that are affecting their attendance.

### **Responsibilities of families**

Coburg High School parents are committed to ensuring their child/children attend school on time every day when instruction is offered, to communicating openly with the school and providing valid explanations for any absence.

Parents will communicate with the relevant staff at Coburg High School about any issues affecting their child's attendance and work in partnership with the school to address any concerns.

Parents will provide a reasonable explanation for their child's absence from school and endeavour to schedule family holidays, appointments and other activities outside of school hours.

### **Supporting and promoting attendance**

Coburg High School's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* supports student attendance.

Our school also promotes student attendance in various ways, including, not not limited to, a Breakfast Club hosted twice a week, before-school access to the library, yard duty staff greeting students, various forms of transport supported, and a number of clubs and groups designed to engage students in diverse extracurricular activities.

### **Recording attendance**

Coburg High School must record attendance in every class. This is necessary to:

- meet legislative requirements
- discharge Coburg High School's duty of care for all students
- meet Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority requirements for VCE students

Attendance will be recorded by the regular classroom teacher, or replacement teacher, in the first ten minutes of each period using the Compass roll-marking system.

If students are in attendance at a school approved activity, the teacher in charge of the activity will record them as being present.

### **Recording absences**

For absences where there is no exemption in place, a parent must provide an explanation on each occasion to the school.

Parents should notify Coburg High School of absences by:

- Using the Attendance function of Compass
- Contacting the Attendance Officer via email ([attendance@coburg.vic.edu.au](mailto:attendance@coburg.vic.edu.au)) or phone (03 9353 1700)
- Contacting the relevant Student Support Team if the parent/carer knows or suspects the absence will be for an extended period of time
- Contacting the General Office if unsure of the above steps (03 9353 1700)

If a student is absent on a particular day and the school has not been previously notified by a parent, or the absence is otherwise unexplained, Coburg High School will notify parents via SMS. Coburg High School will attempt to contact parents by phone as soon as practicable on the same day of the unexplained absence, allowing time for the parent to respond. Students' attendance or absence from class will also be visible on Compass via the parent login.

If contact cannot be made with the parent (due to incorrect contact details), the school will attempt to make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on the student's file held by the school, where possible, on the day of the unexplained absence.

Coburg High School will keep a record of the reason given for each absence. The Principal will determine if the explanation provided is a reasonable excuse for the purposes of the parent meeting their responsibilities under the *Education Training Reform Act 2006* and the School Attendance Guidelines.

If Coburg High School considers that the parent has provided a reasonable excuse for their child's absence the absence will be marked as 'excused absence'. Please note that the parameters for excused absences differ in VCE/VCE VM to those applied at Years 7-10. For more information regarding attendance requirements in the VCE and VCE VM, please refer to the *VCE and VCE VM Policy*, available on Compass.

If the school determines that no reasonable excuse has been provided, the absence will be marked as 'unexcused absence'.

The Principal has the discretion to accept a reason given by a parent for a student's absence. The Principal will generally excuse:

- medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or appropriate
- bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business

- school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes and support the student's return to school
- cultural observance if the parent/carer notifies the school in advance

If no explanation is provided by the parent within 10 school days of an absence, it will be recorded as an 'unexplained absence' and recorded on the student's file. Parents will be notified if an absence has not been excused.

### **VCE attendance**

For information regarding attendance requirements in the VCE and VCE VM, please refer to the *VCE and VCE VM Policy*, available on Compass, or contact a member of the Senior School Team.

### **Managing non-attendance and supporting student engagement**

We understand from time to time that some students will need additional support and assistance, and in collaboration with the student and their family, will endeavour to provide this support when it is required. Where absences are of concern due to their nature or frequency, or where a student has been absent for more than five days, Coburg High School will work collaboratively with parents, the student, and other professionals, where appropriate, to develop strategies to improve attendance, including:

- communication with families via email, phone, Compass notifications and official letters
- establishing an Attendance Student Support Group
- implementing a Return to School Plan
- implementing an Individual Education Plan
- implementing a Student Absence Learning Plan for students who will be absent for an extended period
- arranging for assistance from relevant Student Support staff, Student Wellbeing staff and the Careers and Pathways Coordinator
- accessing of regional supports such as the Navigator Program

### **Referral to School Attendance Officer**

If Coburg High School decides that it has exhausted strategies for addressing a student's unsatisfactory attendance, we may, in accordance with the School Attendance Guidelines, refer the non-attendance to a School Attendance Officer in the North Western Region for further action.

If, from multiple attempts to contact with a parent, it becomes apparent that a student will not be returning to the school, the Principal may make a referral to a School Attendance Officer if:

- the student has been absent from school on at least five full days in the previous 12 months where:
  - the parent has not provided a reasonable excuse for these absences; and
  - measures to improve the student's attendance have been undertaken and have been unsuccessful
- the student's whereabouts are unknown and:
  - the student has been absent for 10 consecutive school days; or

- no alternative education destination can be found for the student.

## Further Information and Resources

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): [Attendance](#)

## Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	2024
Consultation	Principal and School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2028