



WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT

Support for Whanau

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS VERY IMPORTANT

Going to school every day is very important for a child to get the best out of school because:

- It develops good habits for going to school;
- Learning to read, write and do maths takes a lot of practice and is easier to learn if your child goes to school every day;
- Each day is a chance to learn something new;
- School offers your child help to gain the skills they need for life and secondary school;
- It teaches your child life skills like solving problems, how to work with others, and not giving up when things get hard;
- It is the law in New Zealand that children aged 6 to 16 years must attend school regularly.

Some other great reasons why it is important for children to attend school every day:

- To learn
- To have fun
- To make friends
- To experience new things
- To achieve success
- To develop new skills
- To build confidence and to be proud
- To have the best possible start in life
- To have respect for other cultures, religions, ethnicities and gender differences.

Key Point

Children who attend school every day are more likely to have friends, to achieve success, to develop good social behaviours and learning skills, and to be ready for secondary school.

*Ma te rongo ka mōhio, ma te mōhio ka marama, ma te marama ka matau,
ma te matau ka ora.*

Through listening comes awareness, through awareness comes understanding, through understanding comes knowledge, and through knowledge comes life and well-being.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

In New Zealand the school holidays are 2 weeks long in April, July and October. The Christmas holidays are about 7 weeks long from early December to late January.

If you want your child to do well at school, it means going on holiday only in the **school holidays time**. When your child is not at school because of a holiday, they will miss out on lots of learning and will get behind in their school work.

If you take your child on a holiday during school time, then your child's attendance is an '**unjustified absence**', which means you do not have permission for your child to be absent.

If a child is going to be absent from school for **more than 5 days**, then you must discuss this with the school Principal **before** the child is to be absent.

Key point

Take family holidays only during the school holidays.

ARRIVE TO SCHOOL ON TIME

Trentham School starts at 8:55 a.m.

A good time to arrive at school is at 8:30 a.m. Your child then has time to put their lunch and book bag in the right place and to have time to play with friends before the bell rings.

The best time to learn is in the morning. Reading, writing, and mathematics is usually taught in the first part of the day.

Being late for school affects your child's learning and can be upsetting for your child.

Being late for class is disrespectful and disruptive for everyone: your child, the other children and the teacher. The teacher has to repeat the work, other children have to wait for the teacher to finish working with the late child, and the late child feels ashamed.

Attending school every day and arriving on time helps your child develop good habits for future work, where you are expected to turn up every day and on time.

Key Point

Arriving on time to school is respecting others and helps start the day well.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Have a good routine in the morning and evening so your child is organised and prepared before school.
- Check your child has put their books, pencils, and other school things in their bag, and charged their chromebook before bed. Check your child has put their lunch in their bag in the morning, and has had breakfast.
- Make sure your child has plenty of sleep (8 to 9 hours).
- Make medical and other appointments after school when possible.
- Shopping for clothes, shoes, stationery, or for a birthday should be after school or in the weekend.
- If your child is going to be away for several days due to illness or a *tangi* (funeral), talk to the teacher about getting some work to do while they are away, so they don't get behind in their learning.
- Talk to your child about what they have learnt at school.
- Attend parent-teacher meetings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's learning achievements.
- Make an appointment with the teacher if you need to talk about any problems, concerns or difficulties. We are here to help.

We all want the best learning and success for your child at school.

Key Point

Contact the teacher or school office staff if your child is absent or if you have any concerns or worries about your child at school.

Trentham School - Phone (04) 528 6485

EVERY DAY OF SCHOOL COUNTS TOWARDS LEARNING

Children need every opportunity to learn and take part in school.

Attending school is very important to prepare our children for life, as well as being required by law. If your child is under 16 years old, then they must go to school every day, unless they are sick.

Having a successful and happy life at school depends a lot on learning by attending school every day.

If a child is not attending school regularly, then it becomes harder for them to stay connected to school friends and teachers, and harder to catch up with work they have missed.

100% Attendance	0 days missed	Excellent learning.
95% Attendance	10 days of absence means 2 school weeks of missed learning.	Satisfactory learning.
90% Attendance	20 days of absence means 4 school weeks of missed learning.	Poor learning. Gaps in learning.
85% Attendance	30 days of absence means 6 school weeks of missed learning.	Very poor learning. A lot of gaps in learning. Struggling to succeed.
80% Attendance	40 days of absence means 8 school weeks of missed learning.	No learning. Failing at school.
75% Attendance	50 days of absence means 10 school weeks (or 1 term) of missed learning.	No learning. Failing at school.

Key Point

Every day is a Learning Day.

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/your-child-at-school/making-sure-your-child-attends-school-every-day/>

The New Zealand LAW

In New Zealand, children aged between 6 and 16 years must be enrolled at a school and must be attending a school.

Education Act 1989 No 80 Part 3 (as at 14 May 2019)

20 New Zealand citizens and residents between 6 and 16 must be enrolled at a registered school

(1) Every person who is a New Zealand citizen or resident must, during the period beginning on the person's sixth birthday and ending on the person's 16th birthday, be enrolled at a registered school.

(2) Before a child's seventh birthday, the child is not required to be enrolled at any school more than 3 kilometres walking distance from the child's residence.

25 Students required to enrol must attend school

(1) Except as provided in this Act, every student of a registered school who fits into either or both of the following categories is required to attend the school whenever it is open:

(a) a student who is required by section 20 to be enrolled at a registered school;

(b) a student who is aged 4 or 5 and is enrolled at a registered school.

(2) Every board shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that students who are required by subsection (1) to attend the school whenever it is open do so.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a student attends a school on any day if, on the day,—

(a) it has been open for instruction for 4 hours or more; and

(b) the student has been present for 4 hours or more when it was open for instruction.

27 Principal may exempt from attendance for short period

(1) If satisfied that a student's absence was or will be justified, the principal of the school may exempt the student from attending the school for a period of **no more than 5 school days**.

29 Penalty for irregular attendance

(1) Every parent of a person who,—

(a) while enrolled at a registered school, does not attend as provided in section 25; or

(b) while enrolled at a correspondence school, does not do the work of the course in which the student is enrolled,—

commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding an amount calculated at the rate of \$30 for every school day for which the offence has occurred.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a fine imposed for an offence against that subsection shall not exceed \$300 for a first offence against the subsection (or section 120(1) of the Education Act 1964), or \$3,000 for a second or subsequent offence.

(3) The imposition of a penalty under this section does not affect or restrict the operation of any provision of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.