

Attendance Procedures

Contents

Introduction	2
Roles	3
Absence Flowchart	6
BPS Attendance Procedures	7
Attendance Tiers	10
School Attendance Matters Everyday Counts	11
School Attendance Matters Roadmap Infographic	12
HSLO Letter	13
Attendance Update Letter	14
LST Attendance Referral	15
Persistent late arrival letter	16
HSLO referral	17

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Introduction

"School Attendance Matters"

'Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.' (Compulsory School Attendance – Information for Parents Document.) https://education.nsw.gov.au/wellbeing-and-learning/media/documents/attendance-behaviour-engagement/attendance/attend_parents.pdf

This document supports the <u>School Attendance Policy (2015)</u> and applies to all NSW Government schools, excluding pre-schools.

At Budgewoi PS we strive to have all of our students attend school each day. Rolls are marked every day by the classroom teacher. When students are absent from school they are required by law to produce a note from their parents with a suitable reason for their absence. If a note is not produced within 7 school days the absence is declared as 'unjustified' and a note is generated by the classroom teacher. If no explanation is forthcoming upon return to school, the classroom teacher will contact the parent/carer and seek an explanation.

If a student has an unexplained absence of 2 consecutive days it is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to make contact with the student's home to get a verbal reason for why the child is absent from school. This is to ensure there are no child wellbeing issues. **Taken from the DEC policy: 4.2.2.** Principals or their delegate will undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents promptly and within two school days of an unexplained absence occurring.

At Budgewoi Public School, regular attendance is regarded as an important component in the achievement of student learning outcomes. Measures to establish acceptable attendance patterns include:

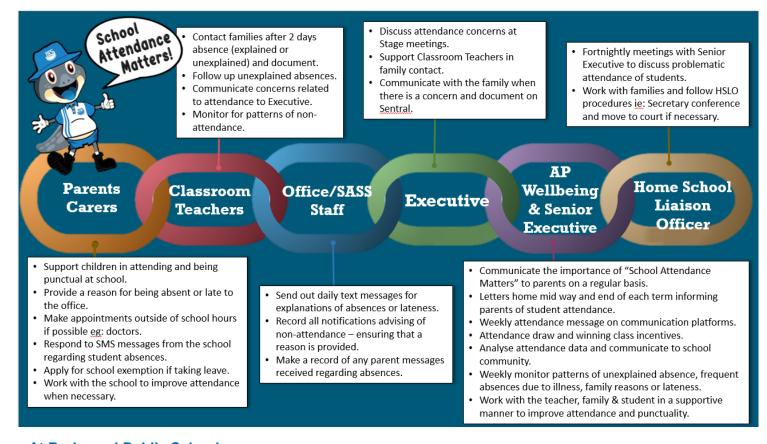
- acknowledging and encouraging good attendance
- · early detection of poor attendance, and
- prompt, positive intervention measures.

Budgewoi Public School recognises and values the benefits of positive home/school relationships and seeks to involve parents in developing and maintaining the strategies that support the development of positive patterns of attendance for all students. Parent and care giver support will be sought in developing and maintaining the Attendance Policy, (in accordance with the Department of Education and Training School Attendance Policy and Procedures. 1991).



Notes regarding attendance should be retained by the school for 12 months. The school will inform parents of attendance policies and procedures at the beginning of each new school year and include periodic reminders in the newsletter.

Roles



At Budgewoi Public School we:

- Seek to engage all students in their learning to encourage full participation
- Believe that regular school attendance is fundamental to improving educational outcomes
- Will ensure that any unsatisfactory participation or unexplained absence is investigated a soon as possible
- Analyse all data available related to Attendance
- Work supportively with families where there are attendance concerns that are impacting on the student's full participation
- Promote positive attendance initiatives
- Use school and external resources where necessary e.g., Social Worker, School for Communities, HSLO, School Counsellor etc.

Parent Responsibilities:

- To support children in attending school all day every day unless there is an unavoidable reason for not attending
- Make appointments e.g., doctor out of school hours if possible
- Support children in being punctual when arriving late or leaving early parent must go through office and advise of reason
- To advise the school when child is absent and explain the reason. This is to be done prior to the absence (when possible) or within 7 days of the absence



- Respond to SMS messages informing parents that child is absent without reason
- Apply through the office for school exemption when the child is absent for longer than one week for family reason. The appropriate form can be obtained from the office
- Work with the school to improve attendance when necessary
- Are responsible for ensuring that when frequent absences are explained as being due to illness that medical certificates are provided

Teacher:

- Mark Roll by 9.30am
- Mark absences with appropriate code / part of day (Do not mark if children are present) NOTE: "A"; means Absent, "AU" means Unexplained; "S" means Sick; or "L" means Leave and "B" means School Business (e.g., sport/orientation programs etc).
- Contact parent if student is absent for more than 2 consecutive days
- Ensure that students arrive / depart via office with partial day attendance
- Check pigeonholes for notes
- Lateness is defined as arriving after 9:05am
- Communicate concerns related to attendance to Deputy Principal
- Keep notes relating to attendance
- Record information on Sentral given by phone or in person for the current year. (Sentral, Data Records, Intervention)
- Contact home when patterns or attendance occur. For example, every Friday. Or regular non-attendance occurs. For example, a day absent from school each week.

School Office Responsibilities:

- Record all notifications advising of non-attendance. Ensure that a reason is provided. Advise class teacher via pigeonhole note of notifications received
- Ensure all rolls are marked by 9.30am
- Make a record of any parent messages received
- All written correspondence / documentation of phone calls is to be kept

Executive Responsibilities:

- Discuss attendance of stage at your stage meetings
- Support teachers in family contact
- Conduct daily attendance draws K-2 and 3-6, and a draw every 5 weeks for studnets who are above our target for a canteen voucher
- Communicate with the family when there is a concern and document all communications
- AP Wellbeing to post a weekly facebook update on class with highest attendance and most improved.
- Coordinate the distribution of the RAW Challenge voucher and additional incentives

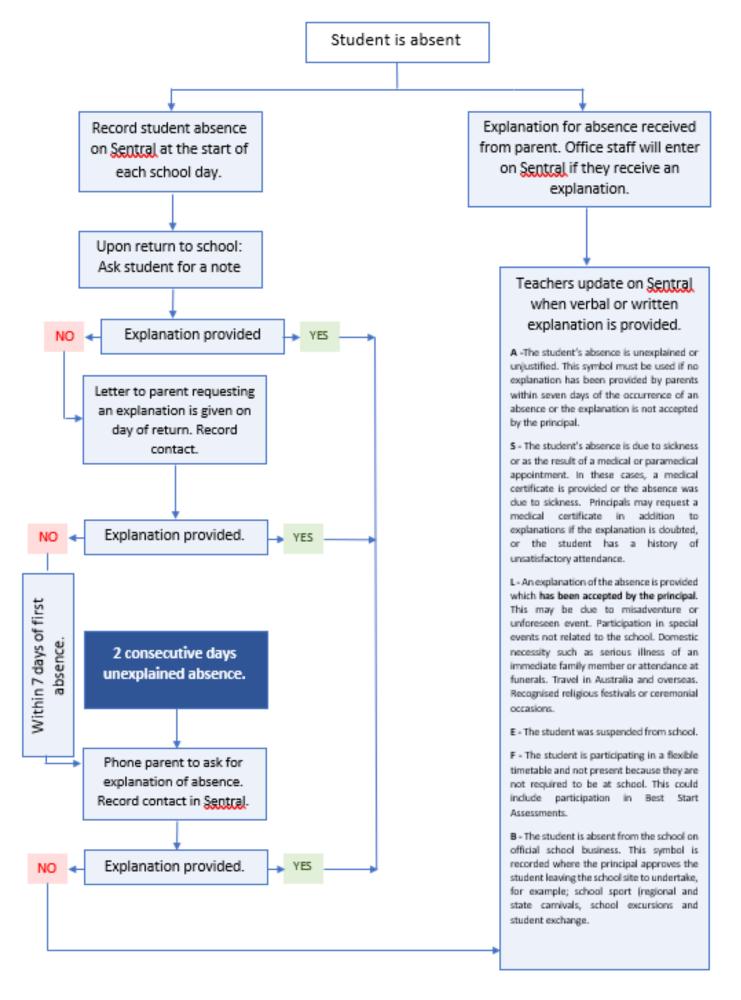
Senior Executive Responsibilities:

- Communicate the importance of "School Attendance Matters" to parent community on a regular basis, in particular when it is raining
- Weekly monitor patterns of unexplained absence, frequent absences due to illness or family reasons and lateness and collate the data from across the school
- Work with the teacher and family in a supportive way to improve attendance and punctuality
- where there are ongoing concerns, approval is sought from parents to contact the student's doctor, so the school has all relevant information regarding the student's health care needs



- must ensure that school staff are provided with information on attendance requirements and their obligation to monitor and promote regular attendance at school
- consideration is given to the requirements of the Protecting and Supporting Children and Young People Policy
- all required reports are made to the Community Services Child Protection Helpline or contact made with the Child Wellbeing unit (as required by the Mandatory Reporter Guide).







Budgewoi Public School Attendance Procedures

Section 24 of the Education Act (1990) requires principals to maintain an attendance register (roll) in a form approved by the Minister. Attendance registers must be available for inspection during school hours by a Board Inspector or by any authorised person.

1. Class Roll

- Class rolls will be maintained by the class teacher.
- The roll will be marked electronically using the Sentral Attendance Package daily within the first hour of the teaching day.
- Opportunities will be provided to staff to mark their rolls regardless of school events scheduled.
- If a casual teacher is on the class, a paper roll will be used and data transported into Sentral by the office staff.
- Rolls will be kept within school records for the designated period of time.
- Rolls will be available for inspection and use by Departmental officers in accordance with regulations.
- As this document is a legal document, its compilation should be professional and accurate.
- Reasons for absences offered by parents or carers should be provided in writing and will also be accepted via email and the Skoolbag App. Teachers may accept a verbal reason from parents provided they make a written notation (signed and dated) to add to their note file.
- Sentral Messaging will be utilised by the school in order to send text messages to parents/carers on a daily basis if their child is not at school, parents can respond with a reson.
- All notes explaining absences must be kept for one whole year from the date of receipt.

2. Change of Attendance Records

- Removals/additions/corrections will be carried out by the class teacher. Names of students who
 leave the school to attend another school will be removed from the roll only when confirmation of
 enrolment at the new school has been received. This confirmation would be in the form of a transfer
 request from a government school or confirmation from an Executive member of a non-government
 school.
- The HSLO is to be contacted if a student has received a transfer certificate and no request for Personal Record Card has been received after 5 days or if there has been a previous school intervention.

3. Early Leavers

- Students will not leave school grounds without prior permission of the Principal or Delegate.
- Students who leave before normal completion time must be collected from the school by a
 parent/caregiver or by a responsible adult who has written permission from the parent/caregiver to
 collect the child. (If the person is unknown to the administration staff an additional phone call to the
 parent/carer may be required and an ID clarification may be requested.)
- The person responsible for collecting the student must call at the front office and sign an early release form and indicate a reason, which will be retained as per other attendance notes.



4. Excursions/Sporting and Other Visits

- Students attending off site Departmental activities/programs are to be marked as present, but on School Business.
- At School Carnivals, rolls are marked in the usual way. Similarly, all Stewart House visits to be recorded on Students Record Card with dates.

5. Illness

• Students who are ill and need to be sent home (with the permission of the Principal) will have the parent/caregiver sign an Early Release Note at the time of departure.

6. Lateness

Students who arrive after the bell must report to the office and follow the procedures set out below:

- Collect a late pass that is issued by the School Administrative Officer.
- Promptly proceed to class and present the late pass form to the class teacher and/or Executive.
- Details of all late arrival should be noted in the Sentral system by the School Administrative Officer and checked by the class teacher. The responsibility of ensuring the accuracy of classroom roles is the classroom teacher.
- Parent/caregivers of persistent latecomers will be contacted by the class teacher and/or executive member.
- Notes of explanation for lateness are filed with absence notes.
- Verbal reports of student absence from the parent must be recorded in the Sentral system by the School Administrative Officer and then coded by the class teacher.

7. Special Circumstances

- School refusers and students returning to school from extended absences need support. The classroom teacher may arrange a case conference through the Learning Support Team, this may also include the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO).
- Part Day Exemption may be granted through an application to the director to support students returning to school. See https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/exempt qui.pdf. Teachers are required to mark rolls with code P/M
- Strike / Industrial Action Disputes Executive staff will enact roll marking procedures. Students who
 are absent from school will be classed as on 'leave', a special circumstance register is to be
 completed. If it is only a half day action and the student is away from the whole day a note will be
 requested as the child is to attend school after the action is complete.



Attendance Tiers

The following strategies should be implemented before an Application for HSLO support is considered:

95 - 100%

- Positive reinforcement: Awards, letters home, prizes
- Create a positive classroom environment.
- Student welfare / attendance policies provide positive attendance strategies and outline school attendance monitoring procedures

85 - 95%

- Unjustified absence letters, SMS, phone calls.
- · Reminders to parents in the newsletter, encourage good practice
- Roll call teachers follow up to ensure notes / explanation of absences are provided
- Monitor 90% report, tabled at LST meetings, executive meetings.
- Collect and monitor attendance data executive and Learning Support Team
- · In service staff
- Exemption

75 - 85%

- Phone call home DPW, DP
- Interview student Stage AP, Class Teacher
- Interview parent DPW, DP
- Phone call to emergency contacts when unable to contact parents, requesting that they pass a message on to have the parents contact the school
- · Letters home requesting explanation of absences and possible interview
 - Detailing large number of absences and impact on educational progress
 - Request for medical certificates
- Attendance reward systems
- Notify relevant staff Assistant Principal, DP Wellbeing, AP Wellbeing, Deputy Principal, Principal, RFF teachers
- Attendance monitoring card
- Individual Attendance Plan school to make a plan with the student/parent
- Learning Support Team Plan to address attendance Issues and discuss needs of student including reengagement strategies.
- Seek support of Learning and Support Team to identify behaviour or learning needs

BELOW 75%

- Principal/Deputy Principal, DPW interview with parents, student and relevant support staff to address issues before possible Application for HSLO support and an Attendance Improvement Plan.
- Phone emergency contacts if parents do not respond to letters or phone call
- Advise Child Wellbeing Unit of Educational Neglect by parents or if students whereabouts are unknown
- Request Police Welfare Check if student has not been sighted for some time (timing dependent on age)
- Refer to Counsellor, outside agency, alternate program, Community Services.



SCHOOL Attendance Matters! EVERY DAY COUNTS

When your child misses just	that equals	which is	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is	This means, the best your child can achieve is
1 day each fortnight	20 days each year	4 weeks each year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day each week	40 days each year	8 weeks each year	Over 2 ½ years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days each week	80 days each year	16 weeks each year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days each week	120 days each year	24 weeks each year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

School success starts with attendance!

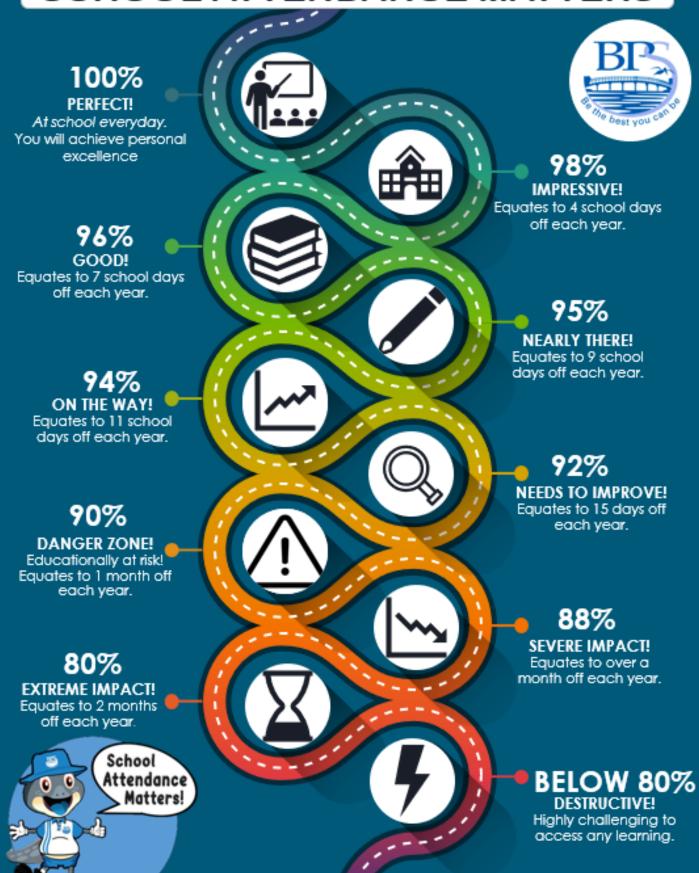
Every Minute 9:05am in School Counts

When your child misses just	that equals	which is	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is
10 minutes each day	50 minutes each week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks each year	Nearly ½ a year of learning
20 minutes each day	1 hour and 40 minutes each week	Nearly 2 ½ weeks each year	Nearly 1 year of learning
30 minutes each day	2 ½ hours each week	4 weeks each year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 day each week	8 weeks or nearly 1 term each year	Over 2 ½ years of learning

School Attendance Matters!



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS







Lukela Avenue Budgewoi NSW 2262 Ph: 02 43909166

Email: budgewoi-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mr & Mrs Smith 1 First Street Sydney NSW 2000

Wednesday, 21st July 2021

Letter 1

Dear Charles & Isabelle Scott

I refer to the attendance of your son, Bon at Budgewoi Public School.

The Education Act (1990) requires parents to ensure that children of compulsory school age attend school on each day that the school is open for instruction. If children are absent from school, parents are required to provide the school with an acceptable explanation within seven days of the absence.

You have previously been advised that Bon's attendance is a matter of concern. The school has implemented a range of strategies to encourage Bon's full attendance at school without success.

At a recent school Learning Support Team meeting Bon's pattern of attendance was reviewed and it is clear that Bon's attendance is still at a concerning level.

I am obliged to report unresolved non-compliance with the Education Act (1990) to the Home School Liaison Officer for further investigation to help resolve the matter. The HSLO will consider if further action is necessary. This may include the development of an Attendance Improvement Plan with specific targets, strategies and timelines.

If there is no improvement in Bon's attendance during this time, the matter may be referred to the Department's senior officers for possible legal action.

We look forward to working with you to resolve the issue.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Forbes Principal





Lukela Avenue Budgewoi NSW 2262 Ph: 02 43909166

Email: budgewoi-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mr & Mrs Smith 1 First Street Sydney NSW 2000

Wednesday, 21st July 2021

Attendance Update: Bon Scott

Dear Charles & Isabelle Scott

Budgewoi Public School is communicating with every parent/caregiver regularly to inform you of your child's attendance rate. Your child has been absent 4 days this year. 3 of these days are unexplained. Bon has attended 94.6% of the school year thus far.

Our school's attendance goal is to have every student attend school at least 96% of the time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Forbes Principal





BPS LST Referral Form - Attendance

Student Name:	Class:
Referring Teacher:	Supervisor:
Date addressed at LST meeting:	_
Concerns:	
☐ Habitual justified, including frequent ab	sences explained as being due to illness
Repeated unjustified Absence	
☐ Repeated Partial Absences	Attendance% (See Student profile on Sentral)
Patterns of non-attendance	
Details and comments:	
Strategies already implemented:	
Phone Contact	ter to parents/carers Other:
Supervisor's Signature:	
LST Recommendations:	
School send letter to parent / cares	- DID

School send letter to parent / carer
Interview parent / carer
Phone Emergency Contacts
Student Interview
Establish a positive attendance program
Attendance monitoring card/contract
Buddy or mentor teacher program
Adjusted curriculum

Persistent Late Arrival Letter

PLP
PLaSP
Refer / Access to LaST
Refer / Access to school counselor
Address social skills / bullying issues
Focus on student needs eg physical
and/or emotional
Responsibility opportunity provided
Individual attendance plan



Lukela Ave, Budgewoi, New South Wales, 2262

Ph: (02) 43 909 166

Email: Budgewoi-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Nathan Forbes

Sest you			Date: 1 st J	anuary 2021
Mr/Mrs NAME				
Address Line 1				
Address Line 2				
Dear Mr/Mrs NAME,				
RE. Late arrivals to school				
The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention our grarriving to school late.	owing concern rega	arding	, who is pers	istently
Late arrivals are very disruptive to our teachers and our class respectful and orderly learning environment that promotes a address your child's persistent lateness.	-			
We understand that there are occasionally situations and en and unexcused late arrivals are most often unnecessary and persistently late and this results in loss of learning and disruption concerning your child being late, we ask you to support the stattendance.	are unacceptable. ption to the learnin	Our main concern g of others. Should	is that id you receive a call from	s n the school
If lateness continues to occur, we will reproblem.	quire a meeting to	discuss how we w	ill work together to add	dress the
Should you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school by telephone to discuss your child's att		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	eting. Alternatively, yo	ou may wish
Yours sincerely				
Mrs Megan Lindsay				
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL				
Child's Name:	Year:	Class:		
Reasons for persistent lateness:				
Name (Please Print):	Signed:		Date:	



Home School Liaison Program Application

Please note that incomplete applications will not be accepted – you must fill in all applicable fields on this form. If you need assistance please contact your local HSLO/ASLO or School Services staff.

Please forward completed applications to the HSLP Manager supporting your school.

- Home School Liaison Officer or Aboriginal Student Liaison
 Officer case referrals can only proceed when a range of schoolbased interventions have been implemented.
- This application must be signed by the principal.
- Please attach a copy of letter 1/email sent to parents/carer informing them of this application.
- Please attach a print out of the student's yearly attendance to date (e.g. on EBS the student yearly absence report).

Case type (Select one only)	School de	etails				
Non-attendance Non-enrolment Enrolment destination unknown	School name: Referral date: Shared enrolment? If yes provide census school:					
Student details						
First name: SRN: Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy): Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander: Disability confirmation: Last known address:	Yes No	Gender Current Out of I Known	: Male F school year: nome care: chronic healt	th issue: \(\subseteq \text{Yes}	nr □ No	
Mother/Ist carer name: Phone, home:						
Father/2nd carer name:						
Is this a re-referral for this studen	t within the sa	ıme school ye	ar? □ Yes □	No		
Current yearly attendance rate at	time of refer	ral as overall %	6	(% = number of days atte	nded/number of day:	school open x 100)
20 school days attendance prior to referral (whole numbers out of 20)	Overall days attended	Sick	Leave	Unexplained	Exemption	Suspension
Whole days (out of 20)						
Partial days (out of 20) Last date student attended a full of the student has had or is on a part and include an approved copy of the student has had or is on a part and include an approved copy of the student has had or is on a part and include an approved copy of the student had been student	day exemptic	on this year, pl	ease indicate			





NSW Department of Education

			Page 2 o
Home School Liaison Program (HSLP)			
Strategies Used To Support This Students Attendance (mark all	applicable)		
Student attendance discussed at LST/wellbeing meeting	,		
Phone calls to parent/carer re attendance concerns			
School based face to face meeting with parent/carer			_
School based face to face meeting with student			
School has implemented its own attendance support plan (please attach	a copy)		
School has implemented HSLO/ASLO LAMP sheet			
School has organised check in check out system for student arrival at sch	ool		
School has engaged parent/carer with external services such as the Famil			
Student has had support from the school counsellor/psychologist	,		
School organised breakfast club			
School is engaging student by providing adjusted curriculum			
Phone call HSLO/ASLO			
Other (provide details police welfare check, CWU notification etc.)			
Schools4Community engagement (A school based family referral service)			
Schools+Community engagement (A school oased family felerial service)			
Strategies Used To Support Your Whole Schools Attendance (m.	ark all applicable)	School initiative	HSLO/ASL
School organised breakfast club	ark an applicable)	initiative	initiative
Whole school assembly re attendance			
-			
School staff meeting (e.g. staff PL) regarding responsibilities School develops attendance rewards as part of whole school behaviour a	nnranch		
School based phone intervention (Phone Intervention Program)	pproacn		
			-
School has developed attendance processes			
School has developed whole school attendance improvement plan			
School interviews parents/carers re attendance			
School interviews students re attendance			
Schools interview students re attendance (Non Attendance Interview Pro			
Situational analysis and recommended improvement such as rolls market			
Roll check/attendance report review (e.g. students below X%) and identified	ed students supported		
School based attendance team meeting			
Other (provide details)			
Known risk factors (please attach a copy of risk assessment) Does the student have a history of violence? Yes No	Principals sign	ature	
Has an inclosed lands act ban been issued to prevent the	MONEN		
student's parents or other people living with the student from entering the school? Tyes No	g		
Has the student had a long suspension for violence? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Date:		
Have the student's parents/carers or other people living with the			
student behaved aggressively towards the school? Yes No Other: (please attach supporting documentation)		
HSLP manager please complete and validate	-		
Case referral details entered onto HART and case accepted or declined	d.		
Decision communicated to principal with reasons. If Yes Date:			-KX
			ヘノン
Please ensure risk assessments are conducted and implemented as a and all further details regarding this case to be entered into HART dat		ĺ	NSV
HSLP Manager Sign: Date:		ō	OVERNMEN