

WILUNA

REMOTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE PLAN



Attendance at Wiluna Remote Community School

Rationale

Wiluna Remote Community School aims to provide a safe, supportive and engaging learning environment, where our students, staff and parents feel a sense of pride and belonging. We work with parents, caregivers and local agencies to improve student attendance.

The *School Education Act 1999* recognizes the right of every child in the state to receive an education during the child's compulsory education period. Schools are required to keep accurate records for every student enrolled at the school.

Helping students establish and maintain positive attendance is a critical element for them to achieve success at school.

A student's attendance may be identified as a concern if:

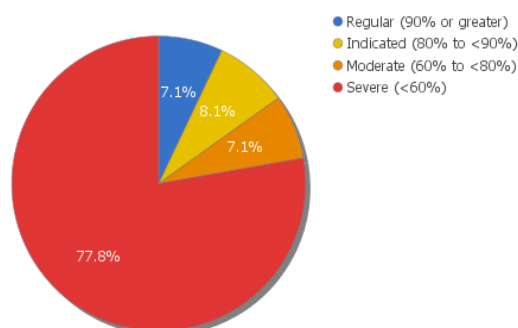
- the number and frequency of absences is high (student is attending below 80% of the time);
- individual student circumstances require personalised strategies.

This document outlines our whole school attendance processes; including intervention in circumstances where students develop patterns of persistent absences.

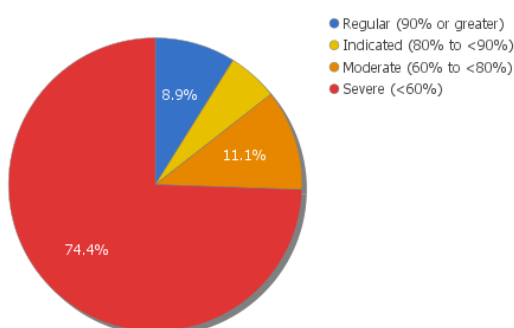
Current attendance profile

Year	Semester	Compulsory attendance rate	% of students with $\geq 80\%$ attendance	% of students with $\geq 80\%$ attendance	% of students with $\geq 80\%$ attendance	% of students with $\geq 80\%$ attendance
2021	1	38.5%	7%	8%	7%	78%
2021	2	40.6%	8%	6%	11%	74%

Attendance Profile 2021 Semester 1



Attendance Profile 2021 Semester 2



Improvement Targets

- **70% attendance for primary students, PP-Year 6 2022 (52% in 2021)**
- **40% attendance for high school students, Year 7-12 2022 (20% in 2021)**

Our goal is to *increase* the **Regular** rate of attendance in 2022 to 20%, (7% in 2021) and to *decrease* the students in the **Severe Risk** category.

Focus on retention of students through the years.

School Processes and Strategies

Promoting and celebrating attendance

- Our teachers provide rich and ***engaging learning experiences*** for all students, tailored to their individual needs and interests. Students, staff and families form ***strong relationships*** to ensure that everyone feels welcomed, valued and successful at school.
- Regular school attendance (of over 85%) is recognised by an attendance dinner (Northern Star Resources – Jundee Mine site) and prizes (Waalitj Foundation) to individual students each term.
- Individual attendance class rewards we occur each term.
- Waalitj Foundation as part of the Remote Schools Attendance Strategy provide yearly camps for students with high attendance.
- The student council will be involved in the development of attendance awards.
- Parents and families will be invited to End of Term assemblies, sports carnivals and other school events.
- In liaison with the Rec Centre - No school, No pool and No School, No Rec Centre.

Health and Wellbeing

Students are provided with a breakfast, cooked lunch and nutritional snacks each day.

The school provides students with the opportunity to shower. Personal hygiene products are available.

The Waalitj Foundation in conjunction with WRCS, will provide organised sporting events for students who have attended and behaved at school.

NAHS (medical service) will support with student health checks and health education.

NAHS Social and Emotional and Wellbeing team and CAMHS will support individual students with counselling.

Monitoring student attendance

Student attendance is accurately recorded and rigorously monitored.

Our staff members work hard to foster relationships with students and parents. We take the time to attempt communication with families in a range of supportive ways including the sending of text messages, phone calls, Facebook, and home visits (by badged attendance officers).

- Parents are required, by law, to provide an explanation for all student absences, either verbally or in writing.
- Students who arrive late come to the office to be signed in.
- Students who have been granted permission to leave the school are to be signed out by the accompanying adult.

Weekly meetings with a Waalij Foundation staff member to provide updates on student whereabouts will occur in accordance with the Remote Schools Attendance Strategy

Classroom teachers

Teachers are required to keep accurate attendance records for every student enrolled at the school, and record whether the student's absence was authorised or unauthorised.

- Teachers are responsible for checking and verifying the whereabouts of all children in their class, with support from class education assistants and AIEO's.
- Attendance is recorded on hard copy lists as well as updating Integrus.
- Visiting students (on Section 24 Arrangements) are also to be recorded.
- Hard copy attendance lists are submitted to administration by Monday 10am for cross-checking with Integrus.

Family Support

The administration team provide support to classroom teachers and families, by making phone calls and home visits to follow up and address the underlying reasons behind low student attendance.

- If parents/carers cannot be contacted by classroom staff, the Administration team will follow up with the family and known contacts via phone calls and home visits.
- If a student's attendance falls below an acceptable level or patterns of absences change (e.g. they become increasingly late), school staff will contact parents, to investigate the reasons why the student is not attending school.

- The administration team will liaise with the Waalitj Foundation and external agencies to overcome barriers to attendance, including provision of clothing and shoes, making appointments with health professionals and individualised family support.
- Many of our students travel across the state for family and cultural reasons, we work closely with other regional and remote schools to ensure continuity of education through the arrangement of Section 24 Agreements.
- Children who are missing from school and are unable to be contacted will have their names placed on the Students Whereabouts Unknown (SWU) list to assist agencies to locate them.
- Responsible Parenting Agreements (RPA) will be arranged at the end of every semester with parents having to sign. In the event that the RPA is not satisfied within the next Semester we will advise families if required to offer an Attendance Advisory Panel (AAP).
- An Attendance Advisory Panel is a group of people brought together to provide advice and assistance to parents of a child not meeting the legislative requirements of school attendance. The panel is made up of appropriately qualified people who are independent of the school and its staff. At an Attendance Advisory Panel meeting, you would be given an opportunity to raise issues you and/or your child believe are relevant. The panel will provide recommendations and advice to parent/caregiver about how to improve the Child or children's attendance.

Students with complex needs

All enrolled students, including those with chronic long term illness, mental health concerns or other difficulties engaging at school are given the opportunity to access appropriate educational programs and maintain connections with their school community. Plans for these students are developed in consultation with families and the school psychology service.

SEN plans and EALD Progress maps will be completed for all identified students.

Strategies to Improve School Attendance

A variety of strategies that will contribute to the ongoing improvement of the attendance of students at Wiluna Remote Community School. The intention is to continue to work together with school staff, community agencies, families and invested stakeholders to engage students in meaningful, purposeful and enjoyable learning programs.

WRCS aims for students to want to come to school and once they are at school, they want to stay at school. Staying at school means engaging with all the different types of learning programs that are offered plus showing a general care, respect and involvement in the school as part of the wider community of Wiluna.

Strategies –

STRATEGY		WHO IS INVOLVED?	REVIEW
Pick Ups and Drop Offs: Morning and Afternoon.		WA Police/ Pendragon Stacey Petterson/ Waalitj Foundation	Continue with this strategy. This also helps with attendance data in tracking the whereabouts of absent students.
Attendance Awards: ✓ School Attendance charts; ✓ Classroom Attendance charts; ✓ Term Attendance rewards; ✓ Sporting team rewards; ✓ Whole School Reward at the end of term. ✓ Jundee End of Term dinner		Wiluna RCS staff. Emidio Boto – Deputy Principal Wayne Gilbert – PE teacher Robyne Brim AIEO/ Attendance Officer.	On-going attendance and behaviour data.
ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS	TAFE courses (Semester 2 2022):	✓ White card training ✓ Keys for Life ✓ Cert I & Cert II Courses	Set up of Training Centre Shed Retention, re-engagement of students on the Roll – attendance data
	High School Students on SIDE	Co-ordinated by Bronwyn Melrose, working with SIDE teachers	
	Two-Way Science program & On-Country learning	Co-ordinated and led by Scott Olsen, liaising with school staff	
	Café	Suzie Grant & School staff	
	Work Experience for Year 10-12 students	Work with Shire and other local agencies	
	Garden Program	Scott Olsen & Rebekah Fisher as coordinators	
	IT upgrade – VR	Emidio/Educate IT	
	Ranger Program	Dutjahn Foundation & TMPAC	

	<i>Kindilink Program</i>	<i>Rebekah Fisher/Kindilink Coordinator, promoting early years engagement within the school</i>	
Classroom Engagement Strategies	Wiluna RCS staff SSEN BE School Psychologist SSEN D	Classroom strategies: Brain breaks, sensory strategies, welcome backs, hands on learning, check-ins, positive primers, hooks into learning, developing individual students plans	
Attendance Team.	Wiluna RCS staff Home visits recorded on SIS	Regular reviews at staff meetings	
Waalitj – Remote Schools Attendance Strategy	Waalitj Foundation staff, agency staff, WRCS staff	Meetings each term	

