

# 2023 February Absence Data

All Victorian Government schools have an Annual Implementation Plan, containing the same 2023 priorities goal related to learning and wellbeing. A key area for all schools is monitoring the engagement and attendance of students. When I attend Principal briefings, the Department of Education (DE) also share our regional and state attendance data and discuss trends.

Each month the school generates a report of student absences. You can see the graph on the next page that shows absences by year level and gender.

Already, we are seeing that some students have had 3 or more days off from school in the month of February, which had 22 school days. If this pattern of attendance continues for those students for the next 10 months of the school year, they will accumulate 30 days off which is equivalent to a whole month of learning. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes.

## What will happen now?

- Classroom teachers have a copy of their grade's February attendance.
- The Leadership Team have identified students that have had a number of days off.
- The classroom teachers will alert you if your child has had too many days off school. While some of these may be for illness or overseas travel, it is important that you reflect as parents the number of days your child has had off school.

While we want to ensure your child attends school as much as possible, we don't expect them to attend school when they are truly unwell. We do ask that you don't make unnecessary appointments during the school day.

Remember, going to school every day is the **single most important** part of your child's education.

**5A had the most consistent attendance in February with 98% attendance.**

**Foundation, Year 3, Year 4 and Year students on average had the best attendance with 96%.**

## Lateness to school

One area we have identified to improve is students arriving to school on time. Routinely each day we have many students late. In the month of February **females accounted for 125 days late and males accounted for 154 days!** This means they miss vital learning instructions at the beginning of the day, and this can interrupt the flow of teaching and learning for themselves and the class.

We understand the post-pandemic traffic has been hectic, so we ask families to consider their morning routines to ensure their children are at school on time. Some other strategies to help make mornings a bit smoother are:

- Setting a regular alarm.
- Waking up that bit earlier and allow for some extra travel time.
- Preparing lunch, the night before.
- Students packing their bag the night before as much as possible.
- Completely homework tasks in the evenings rather than mornings when it is busy.
- Laying out school uniform ready for the morning.
- Minimising television and device time in the morning.



% of Absences for Whole School							
	NIL Absences	0% to 5%	5% to 10%	10% to 15%	15% to 20%	Over 20%	Total
Female	88	38	24	7	7	16	180
Male	103	48	20	6	4	19	200
Total	191	86	44	13	11	35	380
	✓	✓					

## Attendance Plans

We understand from time to time that some students will need additional supports and assistance, and in collaboration with the student and their family, to attend school.

We will endeavour to provide this support when it is required. The process is as follows:

- Establishing an Attendance Student Support Group which will include the family, student, teachers, the Principal Team and any professionals who may be working with the family.
- Including a goal related to attendance in an Individual Education Plan or devising a Student Absence Learning Plan.
- Regular communication with the family to support attendance.
- Arranging for assistance from the school to assist in attendance.

School attendance is a partnership between home and school. Please contact your child's teacher if you are having difficulties with attendance.

The school has an attendance policy which can be found on the school website here:

<https://huntingdaleps.vic.edu.au/parent-information/#policies>

### Attendance Matters

