


GOOD ATTENDANCE

- Good chance of success
- 0 - 4 days absence in a school term

Message 1: Setting expectations

STAR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear communication to whānau about attendance expectations on enrolment, at the start of school year, and each term• Communicate to whānau what steps the school will take in the event their child is absent from school• Communicate good attendance habits to students and whānau
School staff member(s) responsible	Principal or School Leaders 
Format/channel	Newsletter or other communication channel with all whānau
Audience	Whānau of whole student population
Message information	<p>Message to be sent at the start of the year to set expectations with whānau and remind them of their responsibilities.</p> <p>This message will be reused or adapted for inclusion in other newsletters throughout the year.</p>
Message content	<p>Attendance Expectations Guidelines</p> <p>Kia ora</p> <p>Due to guidelines set by the Ministry of Education, we are making contact with every student's whānau to set out attendance expectations for 2026. This email is simply a reminder of the process we have here at Edgewater College.</p> <p>Regular attendance at school is important to your child's success and there is a clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As whānau, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day. The government has set the target of 90% or above for attendance.</p> <p>If your child is going to be absent for any reason, it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you phone, email, report the absence on the Edgewater College Parent Portal, or send a text message to confirm your child's absence and provide us with the reason.</p> <p>We acknowledge there are genuine reasons students may occasionally be absent. However, without regular attendance, your child will struggle to make progress. If your child is absent regularly, or for extended periods, we will reach out to you to discuss the situation.</p> <p>Please be aware that emails will be sent to you after 5 days non-attendance in a term automatically, from your child's Mentor teacher. This will be sent regardless of the communication from home. At 10 days non attendance in a term an email from your child's Dean will be sent to you. We understand that you may have communicated with the school with regards to the reason, but the email is sent regardless.</p> <p>We are committed to supporting your child to attend school. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school, you can ask for support by:</p>

Speaking with your child's Mentor teacher
Sending us a message on the Edgewater College Parent Portal app
Emailing attendance@edgewater.school.nz
Calling us on 09 576 9039 and ask to speak to our Attendance Officer.


We can then work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance.

More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as whānau or caregivers, is available on the Ministry of Education's website, or on the Edgewater College website.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ms M Frayling
Deputy Principal

Message 2: Student absence (day-to-day) - Usual text that is sent daily

STAR activities	Communicate with whānau about morning non-attendance.
School staff member(s) responsible	Attendance Officer 
Format/channel	Text or email directly to main caregiver (Residence A)
Audience	Whānau of whole student population
Message information	Schools will already have procedures in place to respond to day-to-day absences (these may be automatically generated by your SMS or other software). These communications may be an opportunity to remind whānau of the need to explain all absences as soon as possible.
Email Message content	<p>Tēnā koe,<Salutation></p> <p>As of <time>, <First Name> has been marked absent from school.</p> <p>Please communicate with the school immediately as to the reason for this absence via 09 576 9039 or email attendance@edgewater.school.kiwi</p> <p>Ngā mihi maioha,</p> <p>Edgewater College</p>
SMS Message content	<p>Tēnā koe ,<Salutation></p> <p>As of <Time> today, <First Name> has been marked absent from school.</p> <p>Please reply to this message with the reason for <First Name>'s absence, or phone 09 576 9039.</p> <p>Ngā mihi maioha,</p> <p>Edgewater College</p>

Message 3: Attendance updates for students / whānau

STAR activities

- Provide ākongā and whānau with regular updates on their child's attendance
- Communicate good attendance habits to student and whānau through 'Strive for 5' initiative

School staff member(s) responsible

Administrative staff or attendance officer



Format/channel

Through Schoolbridge portal at any time and attendance update emailed weekly.

Audience

Individual student and/or whānau

Message information

Format, frequency and content should be tailored to the student's age and individual circumstances. Updates should be simple and easy for students to understand.

Message content

Attendance update:


Date	AT	P1	B1	P2	B2	P3	B3	P4	AS
Mon 30 Oct		AKO _{MKR} U		5SCI1 _{DAS} U		AKO _{MKR} U			
Tue 31 Oct		5FTK2 _{KWB} U		5MUS1 _{NML} U		5ENV _{JRD} U		5SOC2 _{DWR} U	
Wed 1 Nov	AKO _{MKR} p	5MAT2 _{KSN} p		5FTK2 _{KWB} p		5MUS1 _{NML} p		5SCI1 _{DAS} p	
Thu 2 Nov		5SOC2 _{DWR} p		5MAT2 _{KSN} p		5FTK2 _{KWB} p		5ENV _{JRD} p	
Fri 3 Nov		AKO _{MKR} J		5ENV _{JRD} J		5SCI1 _{DAS} J		5MUS1 _{NML} J	

- P - Present (Green)
- L - Late (Orange)
- J - Justified (Blue)
- U - Unjustified (Yellow)
- ? - Unknown (Red)

WORRYING ATTENDANCE

- Less chance of success
- 5 - 9 days absence in a school term


Message 4: First formal notification

STAR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact whānau to discuss reasons for absence and impact on learning
School staff member(s) responsible	Mentors 
Format/channel	Email directly to whānau.
Audience	Whānau of individual student
Message information	<p>This is an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure whānau are aware of their child's attendance rate, and• prompt/request a conversation about constructively working towards improved attendance
Message content	<p>Kia ora <Salutation></p> <p>Re : <First> <Last></p> <p>I am contacting you regarding <First>'s attendance as <he> has been absent for <Days> days so far this term.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education has set the standard for regular attendance at 90%. Regular attendance will have a positive impact on <First>'s learning, so we are committed to helping <him> reach this target.</p> <p><First> has now moved from regular attendance to the worrying attendance category. This is likely to have a negative impact on <his> academic performance if it continues.</p> <p>If there is anything we can do to help with <First>'s attendance, please let me know by emailing me at <TutorTchrEmail> to discuss this further.</p> <p>Ngā mihi,</p> <p>[Mentor's name and role]</p>

CONCERNING ATTENDANCE

- Hard to make progress
- 10 - 14 days absence in a school term


Message 5: Escalated formal notification

STAR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact whānau to escalate concerns
School staff member(s) responsible	Deans 
Format/channel	Email as a formal message directly to whānau
Audience	Whānau of individual student
Message information	<p>This is an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure whānau are aware of their child’s continued low attendance rate, and• request a meeting to discuss barriers to attendance and develop an attendance plan
Message content	<p>Kia ora <Salutation></p> <p>Re : <First> <Last></p> <p>Unfortunately, despite previous communication, <First>’s attendance has not improved. <He> has been absent for <Days> days so far this term. <His> overall attendance rate is listed below, and is now considered to be concerning.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education defines regular attendance as 90% and above. We are concerned about the effect of absences on <First>’s learning.</p> <p>Please contact me as soon as possible to discuss this further so we can work together on a plan to improve <First>’s attendance.</p> <p>Please email me at <DeanTchrNameEmail> to discuss this further.</p> <p>Ngā mihi</p> <p>[Dean’s name and role]</p>

SERIOUS CONCERN ATTENDANCE

- Very hard to make progress
- **15 days** or more absence in a school term


Message 6: Warning notice

STAR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact whānau to inform of escalated response
School staff member(s) responsible	Senior Leadership 
Format/channel	Email as a formal message directly to whānau
Audience	Whānau of individual student
Message information	<p>This message provides an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure whānau are aware of their child's continued low attendance• advise what the consequences are if their child's attendance does not improve (or a reason for absences isn't provided)• offer to discuss the situation• possible removal from roll <p>You might consider using this if supports offered have not been taken up.</p>
Message content	<p>Kia ora <Salutation></p> <p>Re : <First> <Last></p> <p>Despite our best efforts, <First>'s attendance has not improved. So far this term <First> has been absent for <days> days. <His> overall attendance rate is listed below, and is now considered to be very concerning.</p> <p>It is important for students to attend school to set them up for success and they are legally required to attend school every day. We need your help to make sure <First> attends and engages in learning immediately.</p> <p>We have already brought <First>'s attendance to your attention, and have expressed our concerns, but unfortunately <his> attendance has not improved. We have now referred <First>'s case to the attendance service who will be in touch. Their role is to support you to get <First> moving towards regular attendance.</p> <p>We also need to meet and make a school plan with you and <First> to make sure <he> is making consistent progress towards regular attendance. Please get in touch with me urgently by emailing m.frayling@edgewater.school.nz so we can arrange a time to develop this plan.</p> <p>Ngā mihi,</p> <p>[SLT's name and role]</p>

VERY SERIOUS CONCERN ATTENDANCE

- Very hard to make progress
- **20 days** or more absence in a school term

Message 7: Warning notice

STAR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact whānau to inform of escalated response
School staff member(s) responsible	Senior Leadership 
Format/channel	Email as a formal message directly to whānau
Audience	Whānau of individual student
Message information	<p>This message provides an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure whānau are aware of their child's continued low attendance• advise whānau what the consequences are if their child's attendance does not improve (or a reason for absences isn't provided)• offer to discuss the situation• possible removal from roll <p>You might consider using this if supports offered have not been taken up.</p>
Message content	<p>Letter A under 16 years:</p> <p>Kia ora <Salutation></p> <p>Re : <First> <Last></p> <p>This is to inform you that <First> has not attended for <days> days so far this term. The actions taken by the school have not led to sufficient improvement.</p> <p>We have no choice but to remove <First> from our school roll for continuous absence. We cannot by law continue to count <First> as a student when it is clear that he is not attending. This decision will take effect immediately.</p> <p>Please be aware that Ministry of Education guidelines require all students to be enrolled in an educational facility until they are 16 years old. As a result, <First>'s removal from our roll will be sent to the Ministry of Education, who will follow up with you.</p> <p>Ngā mihi nui,</p> <p>Ms M Frayling Deputy Principal</p>

Letter B over 16 years:

Kia ora <Salutation>

Re : <First> <Last>

This is to inform you that <First> has not attended for <days> days so far this term. The actions taken by the school have not led to sufficient improvement.

We have no choice but to remove <First> from our school roll for continuous absence. We cannot by law continue to count <First> as a student when it is clear that <he> is not attending. This decision will take effect immediately.

If <First> requires assistance from our Futures Department, please contact our Head of Futures on 09 576 9039 or email r.wee@edgewater.school.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Ms M Frayling

Deputy Principal