

# The Importance of Regular Attendance – *Every Day Counts!*



At Ōropi School, we have a positive attitude toward learning and expect regular attendance to ensure every learner has the best opportunity to succeed. Attendance is reported to the Ministry of Education daily.

**The New Zealand Government has set a national attendance target of 90%, which means learners should have no more than five days off per term.** Establishing good attendance habits early on is key to success in learning and life.

## Why Attendance Matters

Research shows that regular attendance is one of the biggest factors in learner achievement, well-being, and lifelong success. Missing school can lead to:

- **Gaps in learning** that can be difficult to catch up on. Your child may not be able to access school intervention support programmes (these require at least 90% attendance).
- **Challenges with routines and friendships** making school feel harder.
- **Increased disengagement** which can affect future learning and opportunities.

## Attendance Categories

<b>REGULAR ATTENDANCE</b> Over 90% attendance (missing fewer than 5 days across a term).
<b>IRREGULAR ABSENCE</b> More than 80% and up to 90% attendance (absent for between 5 and 9 days across a term).
<b>MODERATE ABSENCE</b> More than 70% and up to 80% attendance (absent for between 10 and 14.5 days across a term).
<b>CHRONIC ABSENCE</b> 70% attendance or less (absent for 15 days or more across a school term).

## Irregular to Chronic Absence

If a child's attendance falls below 90%, we work closely with whānau to understand any challenges and put a support plan in place. We hope with a reminder you will work with us to improve your child's attendance.

If attendance does not improve, we may refer to the Attendance Service, who will work alongside you to support regular attendance. Our goal is to ensure every learner is at school, engaged, and thriving in their learning journey.

## Your Role as Whānau

It is a **legal requirement** for all learners enrolled in a registered New Zealand school to attend every day that school is open. Whānau play a **crucial role** in ensuring their child (ren) are at school and engaged in learning.

## Reporting Absences: Sickness, Appointments & Lateness

To ensure accurate attendance records and the safety of our learners, **all absences, including sickness, appointments, lateness, or early finishes**, should be reported through one of the following methods:

 **HERO App:** The quickest and easiest way to notify us.  
**Or Call us at the office on: 07 543 1479**

- Please notify the school before 8.50am if your child is unwell.
- If your child is absent for three days or more due to illness, a doctor's certificate will be requested.
- We have a legal requirement to follow up with all children who are not at school, so you will receive a text message asking for the reason. If we do not hear from you, we will phone you.

## Is Your Child Well Enough to Attend School?

If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, we encourage you to follow [Ministry of Health guidelines](#) or speak with your doctor for advice.

## Absences Due to Travel or Holidays

All absences due to travel or holidays should be advised to the school Principal in advance via [andrew@oropi.school.nz](mailto:andrew@oropi.school.nz) We understand that there may be times when travel outside of school holidays is necessary. However, this should be a rare occurrence and only in exceptional circumstances.

**Please note:** Teachers will not set additional work if learners are away for holidays as the priority is teaching the learners who are at school.

**The school cannot authorise holidays during school time, and any time away for travel will be recorded as explained but unjustified in attendance records and reported to the Ministry of Education.**