

Wyndham Community and Education Centre Inc Policy and Procedure

Policy name	Senior Secondary Programs Attendance Policy and Procedure
Responsible person	Senior Secondary Education Manager, CEO
Staff involved	Senior Secondary Education Programs staff, Support team
Frequency of performance	2024
Related documents	<p>Legislation: Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)/ 2017 Education & Training Regulations (Vic), Worker Screening Act 2020 (Vic), Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic), Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005, Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic), Disability Act 2006 (Vic), Disability Regulations 2007, Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic), Health Records Act 2001 (Vic), Privacy Act 1988 (Com), Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic), Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic), Ministerial Order 870 Child Safe Standards, , Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic), Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 (Vic), Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986 (Com), Ministerial Order 705- Exemption from attending school.</p> <p>Policies: Student Well Being and Duty of Care in Senior Secondary Programs Policy & Procedure (includes procedures for under-18s), Senior Secondary Programs Student Selection, Enrolment, Induction & Delivery - Policy & Procedure, Senior Secondary Programs Discipline Policy & Procedure, Excursions Policy & Procedure, Record Management & Record Keeping Policy & Procedure, Senior Secondary Programs Assessment Policy & Procedure, Decision Making Responsibilities for Senior Secondary Programs Policy & Procedure, Establishing Decisions for Satisfactory Completion (including Delay of Satisfactory Completion and Reasonable Adjustment in Assessment).</p> <p>Other: Class Attendance Rolls, Senior Secondary Programs Attendance Rolls folder, Senior Secondary Programs Student Electronic Attendance Rolls, CVCAL Rolls, Senior Secondary Programs Attendance Slip, Senior Secondary Programs Student, parent and guardian Handbook, Senior Secondary Programs Student Package, Senior Secondary Programs Student Contract, Senior Secondary Programs Leaving</p>

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	Early/Late Arrival Book, Senior Secondary Programs Teacher Package, Admin follow-up re non-attendance, warning letters, Skills First VET Funding Agreement, Department of Education (DE) VCE Vocational Major Contract and Victorian Pathways Certificate Contract with schools, Pre-Training Assessment Results & Recommendations; Enrolment, Consent to Share Information Form. VRQA Guidelines for Non-school Senior Secondary Education Providers: Minimum Standards for Registration to Provide an Accredited Senior Secondary Course, VRQA (Self-Assessment) Readiness Tool Re-registration of a non-school senior secondary education, VRQA VET Guidelines, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Exemption from School Attendance and Enrolment, Training and Skills Higher Education - Enrolling students under 17 Fact Sheet, Enrolling students under 17 in a Skills First Program checklist. Senior Secondary Programs Follow up form for Admin, Communication and non-attendance log, SharePoint-Wyndham CECs Content Software Management System, Senior Secondary Programs Student Package, Senior Secondary Programs Yard Duty Roster, Senior Secondary Programs Timetable, Exemption form/evidence- letter or certificate issued by the Regional Director or mainstream school Principal to meet the Ministerial Order 705 requirements, Senior Secondary Programs Student Personal Details, Certificate of Attendance.
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Context

Wyndham Community and Education Centre Inc. (Wyndham CEC) believes that student attendance and student achievement are closely connected. Students who develop patterns of good attendance are more likely to successfully achieve their certification in the student's enrolled Senior Secondary Programs: the Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major (VCE Vocational Major), Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Intermediate) (VCAL) or the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC).

Legal Requirements in Victoria

Students of compulsory school age (six years to seventeen years), resident in Victoria, are required to meet the National Youth Participation Requirement agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in July 2009. The agreed participation requirement includes a mandatory requirement for all young people to participate in full time (minimum of 25 hours per week) schooling. As a registered non-school senior secondary provider in a community education setting, Wyndham Community and Education Centre Inc.

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recognises the importance of attendance daily so that students succeed in the education program they are enrolled in and take advantage of the opportunities that regular attendance provides.

Policy

Students in the Senior Secondary Programs (SSPs) at Wyndham Community and Education Centre Inc. (Wyndham CEC) are required to attend all scheduled, time-tabled classes, activities and excursions in order to maximise their learning opportunities and ensure satisfactory completion of all assessment within the Senior Secondary Programs. Students will attend full-time for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

For students under 17 years of age Wyndham CEC will maintain the requirement processes as required in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (VIC) that allows exemptions from attendance and enrolment in certain circumstances such as: the student will be participating in approved education or training, or employment, or both, on a full-time basis. This written exemption can only be authorised by a regional director, or in some instances, the principal from their last mainstream school. To gain an exemption, it is the responsibility of the student and/or parent or guardian to apply for an exemption. Wyndham CEC will not permit a student to start in the Senior Secondary Programs until the evidence of the exemption certificate or letter issued by the Regional Director or Principal is provided. The exemption will be sighted and copied. Wyndham CEC will maintain the requirements within the *Enrolling students under 17 in a Skills First Program* checklist.

Wyndham CEC acknowledges that the young people it works with have disengaged from mainstream schools and in most cases have developed poor attendance patterns over a period of time. In acknowledgement of this, Wyndham CEC expects a minimum 80% attendance rate from students but is committed to working with students, families and support workers towards increasing attendance rates to 90% - 100% during the course of student re-engagement in a program at Wyndham CEC.

Attendance includes all approved activities such as VET programs, excursions, industry placements, work experience, Structured Workplace Learning (SWL). Explained absences will not be considered as non-attendance.

Student attendance and conduct will be monitored throughout the program. Attendance expectations are clearly communicated to enrolling students and their parents/guardians if (students under-18) through the Pre training assessment and enrolment interview, the Senior Secondary Programs student, parent and guardian handbook & Student Contract and, the Senior Secondary Programs student package issued at enrolment.

Wyndham CEC will:

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- identify and support all students at risk of non-attendance. This will include various forms of intervention. There is an acknowledgement that many students have developed poor attendance patterns while at a mainstream school. Wyndham CEC will work with students and their families to breakdown and improve entrenched patterns of poor attendance and remove barriers to attendance.
- support student attendance by liaising with and utilising the expertise of
 - Wyndham CEC staff and support services
 - home school staff (as required for students on the Department of Education DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract).
 - locally based support agencies
 - individual student case workers/support services
- recognise that late attendance and/or early departure may impact on student's learning. Wyndham CEC will develop and implement strategies to support students and their families to arrive on time each day and to remain at Wyndham CEC for the day.
- clearly communicate with parents/guardians about their obligation to inform Wyndham CEC of the reason for a student's absence and of the processes that will be followed where an absence occurs.
- ensure that accurate data is collected in relation to attendance and participation so that follow-up of non-attendance can be undertaken promptly and recorded onto the weekly *Communication and non-attendance log*.

The following procedures outline the steps and strategies for monitoring attendance and dealing with student absences and lateness.

Attendance records

Wyndham CEC will record student attendance in every class and record the reason given for each absence on the weekly *Communication and non-attendance log*. This is necessary to:

- meet legislative requirements
- discharge Wyndham CEC's duty of care to those students
- for Senior Secondary Programs students meet the requirements within for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract.
- meet the requirements within the Minimum Standards for Registration as a non-school senior secondary provider.

Attendance Guidelines and Procedures

1. Students sign a Senior Secondary Programs Student Contract at enrolment agreeing to abide by Wyndham CEC policies and procedures including procedures for attendance.

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2. All student absences require an explanation and/or a medical certificate. For student's under-18, phone confirmation, email, text or note from a parent / guardian is required.
3. Senior Secondary Programs attendance rolls will be taken electronically by teachers twice daily for morning and afternoon classes. The teachers will complete the attendance rolls located on SharePoint.
4. This information will be submitted electronically by email to Admin staff by 10:00 AM for a morning class and by 1:00 PM for an afternoon class for follow up of any non-attendance. Admin will follow up non-attendance and complete the information onto the weekly *Communication and non-attendance log*.
5. Parents/guardians of students aged under-18 will be notified of any unexplained absences or lateness.
6. Student absences of 2 or more consecutive days will require a medical certificate.
7. Wyndham CEC expects minimum initial attendance of 80% to timetabled classes and scheduled activities and expects students to be working towards 90-100% attendance within 3 months of commencing. Wyndham CEC will support students and families in this process.
8. Students whose attendance is poor may harm their chances of success in the Senior Secondary Programs because students need to attend regularly to complete coursework and assessment tasks. Students who do not attend at least **80%** of timetabled classes for a unit, may receive an 'N' (Not Yet Complete) result. A delay of satisfactory completion can occur if a student misses too many classes because of poor attendance.
9. It is the responsibility of any student who is absent to find out what course work or assessment was covered in missed classes and any work that may have been set during that time and complete or arrange to complete the work.

Student Absences:

1. Students should ring or text if they are going to be away on the Senior Secondary Programs mobile: **0444 520 390**; **The Senior Secondary Programs mobile phone 0444 520 390** or via head office on **9742 4013**. A message can be left if out of hours or if no-one answers the phone.
2. Accurate class attendance rolls are taken electronically by teachers twice a day – morning and afternoon.
These attendance rolls are sent electronically to the Admin as per step 4 above.

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3. Attendance Slips are used to track student lateness and leaving early and are used in conjunction with the class electronic attendance roll.
4. Daily attendance roll entries are transferred onto an overall Senior Secondary Programs electronic attendance roll maintained by Admin Staff. DEails of medical certificates, notes and any telephone contact in relation to attendance are entered onto the electronic attendance roll. At the end of each week the student attendance roll is printed and then filed in the Senior Secondary Programs attendance rolls folder located in the Senior Secondary Education Manager's office. Attendance Slips are also used for recording on the electronic attendance and participation reports.
5. Student attendances and absences are analysed through via electronic attendance roll which calculates attendance percentages for each student on a weekly basis. These weekly attendance rates are used to follow up on student absences and to improve attendance rates. The electronic Student Attendance Roll can be filtered into groups based on Senior Secondary Programs class, age, attendance percentage, start date, Senior Secondary Programs level, home schools on individual school DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract and/or by individual student.

The following codes are used:

- P (Present), PR (Present-remote learning) E (Explained), I (Illness), MC (Medical Certificate), NR (Not Required) and PS (Private Study) do not impact attendance.
- LE (Left Early) and L (Late) may lower attendance, depending on the reason for the lateness or for the student leaving early. If the late arrival or early leaving is approved, then attendance rate is not impacted.
- U (Unexplained) lowers a student's recorded attendance rate
- CC (Completed Course), EX (Exit), NS (No Start) and NE (Not Enrolled at this Date) result in N/A (Not Applicable) on the electronic roll and do not affect attendance rates
- VET (Student undertake VET program with a provider other than Wyndham CEC)

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6. A note, email, text or a phone call must explain an absence for any student under-18 from a parent/ legal guardian. For students over-18 the student must explain their absence using the same process.
7. A medical certificate should be provided for any single absence, if possible. An absence with a Medical certificate is considered an approved absence. Approved absences do not affect a student's attendance rate and include illness with a medical certificate, bereavement, a statutory declaration regarding illness, approved excursions and activities as outlined in the codes above.
8. For an absence of more than two days, a medical certificate must be provided.
9. If a student is absent for a third consecutive day without making contact with Wyndham CEC, the Senior Secondary Education Manager or her delegate, Admin Staff will make contact with the student using the phone details or email address/es provided to Wyndham CEC. A message will be left if no contact is made.
10. A letter will be sent to the student or parent/guardian, if no contact or explanation has been received after a school week.
11. If a student does not make any contact within a period of (10) school days after the letter is sent, the student will be exited from the program according to the requirements of Wyndham CEC's Skills First Funding Agreement. For students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract discussion with the home-school will occur.
12. Students and their parents/guardians (if required) will be counselled for ongoing absences in order to ensure their safety and well being, and to ensure success in their enrolled Senior Secondary Program.
13. Attendance and absences are reported on student reports: mid-year and end of year.
14. The electronic attendance roll is finalised weekly on Mondays and Fridays analysing student attendance percentages for the week.

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15. Any attendance issues are followed up by the Senior Secondary Education Manager and/or the Admin staff as delegated by the Senior Secondary Education Manager.

16. Attendance is discussed with students and their parents/guardians if required according to the following guidelines:

- 80 -100% attendance – the student is meeting the attendance requirements
- 71 - 80% attendance – the student is reminded of the attendance requirements and continues to be monitored
- 50 – 70% attendance –
 - the student is required to attend a meeting about their poor attendance.
 - The parent/ guardian of a student under-18 is notified. In some instances, a parent / guardian of a student 18 or older, may be notified depending on the circumstances.
 - The student is counselled on attendance requirements. If the Senior Secondary Education Manager has concerns about the student’s safety or well-being, appropriate follow up/ referral will occur.
 - If there is no improvement in the following week, a further meeting will be held and parents invited to attend.
 - If no improvement occurs following the second meeting, a warning letter will be issued.
 - If there is no improvement following the warning letter, a second warning letter will be sent after two weeks.
 - On receipt of a third warning letter, the student will be exited from the program.
 - At all times during the process, any concerns about the student’s safety or well-being will be acted upon.
 - In some cases, there may be valid reasons for the student to have a staggered attendance because of mental health /medical issues or other issues. In these cases, the Senior Secondary Education Manager will work with the student, the family and any support or medical services engaged with the student.
- Under 50% attendance –
 - the student is required to attend a meeting about their poor attendance with a parent and / or caseworker (if applicable).

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- The student is counselled on poor attendance and strategies to improve attendance are agreed upon by all. If the Senior Secondary Education Manager has concerns about the student's safety or well-being, follow up will occur.
- A follow up meeting will be held after two weeks to report back on the success of the strategies or otherwise.
- If no improvement has occurred, an agreed process of intervention is developed.
- A first warning letter is issued at this stage.
- If there is no improvement following implementation of the intervention strategies and the warning letter, a second warning letter will be sent after two weeks.
- On receipt of a third warning letter, the student will be exited from the program.
- At all times during the process, any concerns about the student's safety or well-being will be acted upon.
- In some cases, there may be valid reasons for the student to have a staggered attendance because of mental health/medical issues or other issues. In these cases, the Senior Secondary Education Manager will work with the student, the family and any support or medical services engaged with the student. In these cases, warning letters will not be issued while ongoing strategies and willingness of the student to co-operate are undertaken.

17. The CEO will receive all attendance rolls weekly and will liaise closely with the Senior Secondary Education Manager. Any serious student concerns, particularly in relation to any duty of care or legal issues identified, must be reported to the CEO as they arise.

Students on the DE VCE Vocational Major and VPC contracts

1. For students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract rolls are created based on the attendance data collected twice daily and have their weekly attendance recorded in the same way as other Wyndham CEC Senior Secondary Programs students as outlined above.
2. For students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract, student attendance is sent to the nominated contact person at the Home School on

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- a weekly basis with an average of the week's attendance recorded. A weekly progressive calculation of the student's attendance is included.
3. Rolls are emailed each Tuesday (or as soon as possible thereafter) to the nominated contact people at the Home schools for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract.
 4. If a student does not make contact with Wyndham CEC for a period of three (3) days, then the student, parent or guardian is contacted.
 5. If the student does not return to Wyndham CEC following contact, the nominated contact person at the Home School for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC contract is notified.
 6. The student is sent a warning letter at this stage and the nominated contact person at the Home School for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract informed.
 7. If a student does not make contact or return within a period of ten (10) school days, Wyndham CEC will seek guidance from the nominated contact person at the Home School for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract on how to manage the next steps.
 8. The Senior Secondary Education Manager will maintain close contact with the nominated contact person at the Home School for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract regarding attendance issues.
 9. At all times any concerns about the student's safety or well-being will be discussed with the nominated contact person at the Home School for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract.
 10. In some cases, there may be valid reasons for the student to have a staggered attendance because of mental health issues or other issues. In these cases, the Senior Secondary Education Manager will work with the student, the family, the nominated contact person at the Home School for students on the DE VCE Vocational Major Contract and VPC Contract and any support or medical services engaged with the student. In these cases, warning letters will not be issued while ongoing strategies and willingness of the student to improve are undertaken.

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Student Lateness:

1. Students should ring, email or text if they are going to be late on the Senior Secondary Programs absence mobile: 0444 520 390 or via head office on **9742 4013**. A message can be left if out of hours or if no-one answers the phone.
2. Students record their late arrival in the ‘**Senior Secondary Programs Late Arrival / Early Leaving Book**’ in the Admin office if they arrive more than 10 minutes late.
3. The reason for lateness is discussed and recorded.
4. Students are given a Senior Secondary Programs Attendance Slip to present to their teacher on entering the classroom.
5. Late attendance is monitored daily, and teachers record the time of arrival on their daily roll. If the student arrives late, the late time of arrival is recorded onto the roll.
6. Students will be counselled for ongoing lateness.
7. A Parent/ guardian will be contacted for unexplained lateness of students under-18.
8. If a student receives ten (10) late attendance slips, a meeting about their ongoing lateness will occur. If the student is under-18, a parent/guardian will be notified and invited to attend. If applicable, a student’s caseworker will also be invited to attend.
9. The student’s lateness will be discussed and strategies to improve it will be developed and agreed upon. If the Senior Secondary Education Manager has concerns about the student’s safety or well-being at any stage, follow up will occur in response.
10. If there is no improvement in the following week, a further meeting will be held.
11. If no improvement occurs following the second meeting, a warning letter will be issued.

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12. If there is no improvement following the warning letter and the meetings, a second warning letter will be sent after two weeks.
13. On receipt of a third warning letter, the student will be exited from the program.
14. At all times during the process, any concerns about the student's safety or well-being will be acted upon.
15. In some cases, there may be extenuating circumstances that explain the student's ongoing lateness such as mental health/ medical issues or other issues. In these cases, the Senior Secondary Education Manager will work with the student, the family and any support or medical services engaged with the student to improve lateness. In these cases, warning letters will not be issued while ongoing strategies and willingness of the student to improve are undertaken.

Early Leaving

1. Students under-18 are required to bring a note signed by a parent/guardian with an explanation if leaving early for the day
2. All students are required to explain a request to leave early with the Senior Secondary Education Manager or the Admin staff.
3. If it is to attend an interview or appointment, an appointment card, Certificate of Attendance or letter should be provided. Please note: Students are encouraged to make appointments outside of their scheduled timetabled classes.
4. Students leaving early must sign the '**Senior Secondary Programs Late Arrival / Early Leaving Book**' in the Admin office before leaving Wyndham CEC. They should provide a Senior Secondary Programs attendance slip to the office, signed by their teacher.
5. If a student is to leave the classroom, outside of nominated break times they are required to obtain an attendance slip from their teacher indicating that they are permitted to leave. The time will be reflected on the student roll.
6. Students asked to remove themselves from a classroom by a teacher, must come to the Admin office with a Senior Secondary Programs attendance slip signed by a teacher.

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Students under 17 in a Skills First Program who have been granted an *Exemption from School to enrol into a Skills First Program.*

The Senior Secondary Education Manager will notify the student's previous school and the relevant Department Regional Office or the last mainstream school Principal (depending on who granted the initial exemption letter or certificate) if a student under 17 who has been granted an exemption makes any changes to their enrolment, such as disengaging or exiting, changing to part-time, or reducing program hours to below 25 hours per week.

Wyndham CEC will meet the following requirements as stated in the *Training and Skills Higher Education- Enrolling students under 17 fact sheet* and reflect the changes onto the initial *Enrolling Students under 17 in a Skills First Program checklist*.

- **Approval is needed to change program or training provider**
An exemption only applies to the specific training provider and program listed on the exemption letter or certificate.

All changes to a student's program, program hours or training provider while under 17, must be formally agreed by the original approver of the exemption – either the school principal or Department Regional Director. Wyndham CEC will sight and retain this formal approval of changes to the student's exemption before details of their enrolment is updated.

- **Students who want to enrol in a further program**
A student who completes their program, is still under 17, and wants to enrol in another program with Wyndham CEC, will need a **new exemption** for the new program. Wyndham CEC should contact the Department Regional Office or Principal, depending on who granted the initial exemption, for advice on the best way to achieve this new exemption.

- **Students who take longer to complete training**

Wyndham CEC don't need to get further documentation if the student takes longer to complete the training than indicated on the exemption, provided their enrolment remains full-time.

- **Students who stop attending or complete training**

Wyndham CEC must write to the relevant Department Regional Office and the student's previous school (where relevant) to advise if a student under 17 stops attending, disengages from, or completes their training. The previous school will support the student by talking to them about alternative pathways to education, training and employment.

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