

Bayside  
Christian  
College



# STUDENT ATTENDANCE - EXEMPTION POLICY

Policy Name:	Student Attendance - Exemption
Date of implementation:	25 March 2022
Date for review:	2025
Classification:	Policy C
Approved by:	Principal/ CEO
Approved on:	20 March 2022
Responsible:	Executive

# Student Attendance - Exemption Policy

## 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to clearly articulate Bayside Christian College's expectation with respect to student absenteeism and the process by which parents/ guardian may seek an exemption from school attendance for their child.

## 2. Principles

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- 2.1 Underpinning this policy, is the understanding that students need to attend school every day as 'every day counts'. The College is further mandated by legislation to ensure students attend school regularly or to inform Government Departments when student's fail to attend school as required.
- 2.2 The policy sets a reasonable expectation for student attendance at Bayside Christian College and the process by which exemptions may apply and be granted.
- 2.3 This policy applies to all students.
- 2.4 The Principal/CEO expects all parents to adhere to this policy and only seek exemptions when absolutely necessary and appropriate under legislation.

## 3. Policy

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Bayside Christian College is dedicated to fulfilling the need for holistic (K-12) education in the Bible-informed Christ-centred tradition of servant leadership, in a way that encourages, enables, and supports our students to be the best possible version of themselves. Our aspiration lies in uncovering the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in a community of life-long learning and we are truly committed to inspiring Christian character in all we do.

- 3.1 All students are expected to attend school every day unless they are ill or unable to attend school due to a scheduled appointment.
- 3.2 Legislation demands that students attend school every day unless there is a satisfactory/ acceptable reason or an exemption has been granted by the College Principal.
- 3.3 Any student expected/ anticipated to be absent of 5 consecutive days from Bayside Christian College should seek permission from the College Principal by completing the form: Application for Student Leave During Term Time. This can be obtained from the College's Administration.
- 3.4 A formal exemption from compulsory schooling or the compulsory participation phase should be sought by parents when a student cannot attend, or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances for them to attend or participate in an eligible option, for a period of more than 10 consecutive days, due to the circumstances outlined below. A partial exemption may be available if a student in the compulsory participation phase cannot participate at school on a full-time basis.
- 3.5 Circumstances in which an exemption should be applied for include:
  - Diagnosis of a debilitating or terminal medical condition;
  - Illness of hospitalisation for a prolonged period of time;
  - Diagnosed mental health condition;
  - Extended travel;
  - Cultural or religious reasons

3.6 The relevant Legislation states:

**Section 244A**

**Non-State school's principal may grant exemption**

- (1) A non-State school's principal may grant an exemption fully excusing a young person from the requirement that the young person participate in an eligible option if— [s 245] Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Chapter 10 Compulsory participation in education or training Current as at 31 August 2020 Page 149 Authorised by the Parliamentary Counsel
- (a) the non-State school is the provider for the eligible option; and
  - (b) the principal is reasonably satisfied—
    - (i) the young person cannot participate in the eligible option; or
    - (ii) it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances to require the young person to participate in the eligible option; and
  - (c) the period of the exemption would not, if it were granted, cause the total of the periods of exemptions granted under section 244 or this section for the young person to be more than 110 school days in a year.
- (2) A non-State school's Principal may grant an exemption partially excusing a young person from the requirement that the young person participate in an eligible option if—
- (a) the non-State school is the provider for the eligible option; and
  - (b) the principal is reasonably satisfied—
    - (i) the young person can not participate in the eligible option at a full-time level; or
    - (ii) it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances to require the young person to participate in the eligible option at a full-time level; and
  - (c) the period of the exemption would not, if it were granted, cause the total of the periods of exemptions granted under section 244 or this section for the young person to be more than 110 school days in a year.

**Section 245**

**Application for exemption**

- (1) A young person, or a parent of a young person, may apply to the following person (the relevant decision-maker) for an [s 246] Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Chapter 10 Compulsory participation in education or training Page 150 Current as at 31 August 2020 Authorised by the Parliamentary Counsel exemption from the requirement that the young person participate in an eligible option—
- (a) for an application for an exemption under section 244—the chief executive;
  - (b) for an application for an exemption under section 244A—the Principal of the non-State school that is the provider for the eligible option.

- (2) The application must—
  - (a) state the period for which the exemption is sought; and
  - (b) for an application by a young person—include the signed consent of a parent of the young person.
- (3) However, subsection (2)(b) does not apply if the relevant decision-maker is satisfied it would be inappropriate in all the circumstances to require the signed consent of a parent. Example— an application by a young person living independently of the young person's parents
- (4) The applicant must provide any other relevant information reasonably required by the relevant decision-maker to decide the application. Example— If an exemption is sought because the young person is ill, the information required under this subsection may include stated medical evidence.