

Assistant Principals Report

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. John Dewey

Attendance

In NSW, education is compulsory for children aged between 6 and 17 (*as defined by the NSW Education Act 1990 Section 21B*). All students are expected to attend all scheduled, school classes, and activities every school day of each term. School attendance helps children develop social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills and healthy self-esteem. Also, as most learning occurs sequentially, absences have a compounding effect.

Impact of Poor Attendance

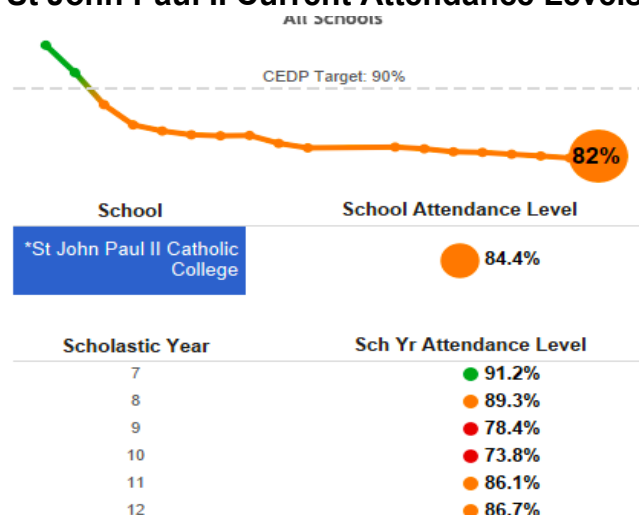
Level of absence indicates educational risk

Student absence	Attendance rate	Educational risk	Days absent per year	Long term absence (over 10 years of school)
Regular	90% or more	Low	20 days or less	1 year or less
Emerging	80% - 89%	Medium	Between 20 and 40	1 - 2 years
Chronic	70% - 79%	High	Between 40 and 60	2 - 3 years
Complex	69% or less	Severe	60 days or more	3 years plus

Days Off

When you miss "just" ...	that equals ...	which is ...	and therefore from Kindergarten to Year 12, that is ...	This means that the best you can achieve is ...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years of school learning	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school learning	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

St John Paul II Current Attendance Levels



Although, as you can see, as a school St John Paul II is above the CEDP average we are not meeting the 90% target. A quick glance at the attendance levels for each year group will tell you where the deficit lies.

Your Role as Parents

- Ensuring that your child/children attend school every day.
- Ensuring that your child/children are punctual to school.
- Explaining the absences of your child from school promptly by means such as a telephone call, written note, text message or email to the school within 7 days of the absence.
- Work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school, including communicating with the school if you are aware of issues impacting your child's attendance or engagement with school.

Uniform

Our College community takes pride in our uniform and as a result, we have strict expectations and guidelines around professional attire for our students. Our uniform identifies us as members of the same community and ensures the students are well dressed in a professional manner, whilst meeting the WHS requirements.

We ask families to support the College with our professional attire and to ensure all students are dressed appropriately for school with the correct uniform each day.

Please spend some time with your child to read through pages 23, 24 & 25 of the College planner to better understand the College uniform requirements. Some items to note:

- Long hair must be tied up.
- Extreme haircuts are not permitted. These include mullets/eshay fades, undercuts, scalp designs, mohawks etc. Boys should have nothing shorter than a number 2.
- Hair must be one natural colour.
- No piercings on any part of the body, with the exception of girls having one set of earrings (small plain studs or small plain hoops) in the lower ear lobes. No covers or plastic keepers/spacers.
- **The College blazer should be the outermost garment when the winter uniform is worn. It is the expectation the blazer is worn to and from school during Terms 2 & 3.**
- Sports jackets can not be worn with the summer or winter uniform. Students must wear the red jumper or blazer with their summer or winter uniform if they are cool.
- **Hoodies/Jumpers with hoods are not part of our uniform. Coloured jumpers/jackets are not permitted.**
- Students are required to wear the correct footwear each day. Please see the infographic below for more information around College footwear requirements.

Safe, professional and appropriate footwear at St John Paul II Catholic College

The appropriate school shoes are a requirement of the school uniform. The college uniform identifies us as members of the same community and ensures students are well dressed.

When the correct shoes are worn, students satisfy WHS requirements and look professionally dressed.

- Please use this as a guide when preparing your child's uniform.
- Please note that students will be asked to purchase new shoes if they are not wearing school or sport shoes that requirements of the college uniform code.

Summer and Winter Uniform Footwear

Correct Footwear

Must be a traditional school shoe.
Must be black leather, have laces and a small heel.



Incorrect Footwear

No skate shoes, sneakers or joggers with a flat sole.
No shoes without laces.



Sports Uniform Footwear

Correct Footwear

Must be a traditional sports jogger.



Incorrect Footwear

No skate shoes, sneakers or joggers with a flat sole.
No high-tops. No shoes without laces.



VAPING - a Dangerous Trend

As a College we are committed to ensuring the health and safety of your child/children. To this end we remain vigilant in our efforts against vaping at school. Unlike traditional tobacco products, vape is often sweet smelling or odourless. Some vapes are even vapourless. This makes the job of catching culprits very difficult. Below is valuable information to help you better understand, 1) the health risks associated with vaping; and 2) the insidious nature of the practice.

Understanding the Health Risks Associated with E-cigarettes and 'Vaping'

E-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that allow the user to inhale chemicals in a vapour form (known as 'vaping').

Across the media there have been reports of teenagers displaying risk taking behaviour through the use of e-cigarettes. Unfortunately they are not a safe alternative to smoking as they can have some very harmful side effects. All e-cigarettes are illegal for children under 18 years. Unfortunately some students have been suspended for e-cigarettes.

It is important for parents to know what the law says regarding e-cigarettes and 'vaping' in NSW.

- All **e-cigarettes**, regardless of whether they contain nicotine, are **illegal** in NSW for people **under the age of 18**.
- Under the NSW Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008, it is **illegal to sell e-cigarettes** or e-cigarette accessories to a person **under 18 years of age**.
- The sale and use of **e-liquid nicotine**, including in e-cigarettes, is **against the law for everyone including adults**
- E-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine are legal in NSW for Adults (over the age of 18). Adults can buy and use e-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine.
- The Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 and the Passenger Transport (General) Regulation 2017 prohibit people from using electronic cigarettes (or e-cigarettes) in smoke-free areas.
- It is illegal to display, advertise or promote e-cigarettes.

CEDP has a very clear policy regarding "**Banned Substances**" (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, alcohol, drugs). The policy states that "*CEDP schools must be places that are free from the possession, use or distribution of banned substances.*" Therefore, in terms of e-cigarettes, students are prohibited from:

- possessing (having an e-cigarette)
- using ('vaping' from an e-cigarette)
- distributing (giving or selling an e-cigarette to others)

Please note that e-cigarettes with nicotine are treated as an illegal substance such as illicit/illegal drugs. There are very serious consequences for students who break the Banned Substances Policy. These include:

- Parents contacted
- Police contacted (where there is a possible concern of any illegal activity, distributing, selling or nicotine based e-cigarettes etc.)
- Suspension
- Other consequences deemed appropriate by the College Principal, or NSW Police.

Vaping Info - Additional fact sheet for parents

- [E-cigs are they safe - NSW Health](#)
- ['Students are hiding Vaping devices in plain sight'](#)



Dear Parents/Carers

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) sees parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, CEDP would like to invite you to join the following free webinar for parents and carers:

eSafety's guide to parental controls - **Thursday 24 June 2021, 12:30 -1.30 pm**

This live webinar explores the latest research and is a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online. The session is delivered by the eSafety Commission's expert educators.

About the webinar

eSafety's guide to parental controls

This webinar will look at how parents and carers can set up devices and apps to help kids and young people stay safe online. It is designed for parents and carers of children aged 4-13. It will cover:

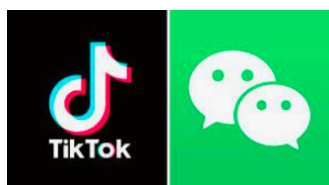
- the benefits and limitations of parental controls
- how to set up iOS and Android devices for safety
- how to set up popular games and apps like YouTube and Roblox for safety
- using family tech agreements and other parenting strategies to manage online risks
- how eSafety can help when things go wrong.

What you need to do

Please register for the course on the secondary site via the following link:

- 24 June 2021 session - [link to register](#)

eSafety – TikTok (Social Networking Site)



Recently we have been working with several families regarding serious issues related to the use of TikTok at home, especially with students under the age of 13.

TikTok is a free social media app that lets you watch, create, and share videos, often to a soundtrack of the top hits in music using a mobile phone. However, with so much information out there, it can be a challenge for parents/carers to know if it is really safe.

Because of TikTok's emphasis on popular music, many videos include swearing and sexual lyrics, so it may not be age-appropriate for your daughter to use on her own. It is also easy to find people wearing revealing clothing and dancing suggestively/inappropriately.

TikTok requires that users be **at least 13 years old** to use the full TikTok experience. **Anyone under the age of 18 must have approval of a parent/carer.** If your daughter is under 13 years old and wants to use the TikTok app, there is a section of the app that includes additional safety and privacy features. This under 13 version of TikTok uses clean videos and users are not allowed to comment, search, or post their own videos.

If you allow your daughter over the age of 13 to use TikTok, we encourage you to share an account with her. This will allow you to keep your daughter safe by monitoring what she daughter is viewing and posting.

As with all social networking sites we encourage parents/carers to ensure they are monitoring their use at all times and are aware of any legal or social impacts when it comes to its misuse. We encourage parents/carers to keep open communication with your daughters to ensure that they can report any concerning posts to you. If any social media post contains any violence, threats or other illegal material, please report this to NSW Police immediately.

For further information – visit the [eSafety Commissioner's Website that contains important information related to TikTok](#)

Year 9 2022 Subject Selection Timeline

- **Week 10B - Wednesday 23 June 2021 - Period 1 - Meeting in PWS** - Explain subject preference process to students. Distribute subject selection booklets and subject selection information letters to students through compass.
- **Week 2B - Monday 19 July 2021 - Friday 23 July 2021** - Student nominated interviews with AP or LOL for students needing advice
- **Week 2B - Wednesday 21 July 2021 - Period 1 - 4** - Year 8 Subject Preference Information Day
- **Week 2B - Friday 23 July 2021** - Web preference email sent to students at the end of the school day. Students to make subject preferences via web preferences
- **Week 3A - Monday 26 July 2021** - Final web preferences deadline for students at 2:15pm
- What happens next!

Year 11 2022 Subject Selection Update

Students have completed their online subject preferences. The next step in the process is for the College timetabling team to use the preferences to determine subject blocks that allow the majority of students to select suitable and desired subjects. Once this step is completed each student and parent/carer will meet with a member of the College Leadership team to discuss and determine a pattern of study for 2022.

Subject Selection Interviews: Term 3, Week 6 Details as to the day and how to book will be distributed next term.

Reports and Student Parent Carer Teacher Interviews

Year 7-12 PTS Zoom interviews for Semester 1 are scheduled for Term 3, Week 1. We encourage all families to attend these online Zoom interviews and take advantage of the opportunity to discuss your child's learning with their classroom teachers.

Working together in partnership to ensure that your child is the best version of themselves and flourishing is important to our College. A good strategy that a lot of parents use is to sit down and discuss their child's report with them – looking at both the strengths they have demonstrated throughout the semester as well as looking at areas for improvement and development.

- The Year 7 -10 Semester 1 Reports will be released online via Compass on Friday 25 June
- Interview bookings can be scheduled online via the School Interviews portal.