


## Kia ora Hurunui College whānau,

As Presiding member, I want to take a moment to share with you an important message about school attendance—why it matters, what the law requires of us as a school, and how we can all support our tamariki to succeed by simply being present.


### Why Attendance Matters

Being at school every day makes a huge difference. Even small amounts of lateness or absence add up to significant lost learning over time.

 Did you know?

- Being just 5 minutes late per day equals 3 days of learning lost each year.
- Missing 1 day every fortnight adds up to over 1 year missed by the time your child finishes school.
- Missing 1 day a week equates to over 2.5 years of lost learning!

*Every minute matters. Every day matters.*

 We've attached a helpful infographic that breaks this down clearly—please take a moment to read it and have a kōrero with your child about the value of showing up every day, on time.

### Our Legal Responsibilities

Under the Education and Training Act 2020, school Boards are legally required to:

- Take all reasonable steps to ensure students attend school.
- Keep accurate attendance records daily.
- Have clear systems in place to monitor, follow up on, and support attendance.
- Take action if there are patterns of ongoing absence—this can include referrals to support services or in serious cases, legal steps.

We are also preparing for the upcoming Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) framework, which from 2026 will guide how schools must respond to different levels of absence in a structured, fair, and supportive way.

### What the Board and School Are Doing

At Hurunui College, we are:

- Reviewing our Attendance Policy to align with current legislation and best practice.
- Strengthening our systems for monitoring lateness and absences.
- Working with the principal and staff to ensure early, supportive interventions where needed.
- Making sure our communication is whānau-friendly—because we know that building relationships and understanding is key to improving attendance.

### What We Need From You

We understand that sometimes illness or family emergencies happen. But when children are well, being at school is vital. Please:

- Ensure your child attends school daily and arrives on time.
- Notify us promptly if your child is away, and let us know how we can help if you're facing challenges getting them here.
- Talk with us early if there are barriers—transport, health, anxiety, or other issues—we're here to help.

Let's work together to give every student the best chance of success.

Ngā mihi nui,

Robin McKinlay  
Board Chair  
Hurunui College

# Attendance Matters!

## BEING ON TIME



## BEING AT SCHOOL

A day here and there doesn't seem like much but...

**DAYS MISSED = YEARS LOST**



## BEING AT HOME

**STAY HOME TO STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS**

When am I too sick to come to school?

- You have a fever
- You're sniffling, coughing and have a scratchy throat with no fever
- You have green or yellow nasal discharge
- You have a killer headache
- You have a hacking cough
- You have vomited or had diarrhea in the last 48hrs

