Student Attendance and Promotion Policy

Underlying principle

In order to best support students to be successful at all years of their secondary schooling, it is important that students actively participate in their learning and full range of College activities. Regular school and lesson attendance is one critical factor in a student’s ability to do this. On time attendance to school and lessons of at least 95% is widely considered to be the minimum attendance rate for student success at school and in subjects.

In addition to lesson attendance, it is compulsory for all students to attend scheduled activities such as Sports Carnivals (held once per term), all inter-House competition activities (such as the Performing Arts Festival, Quiz Day) and other special scheduled days. All Year 9 students are expected to attend scheduled Religious Education days once per term.

A third critical factor is the effort made by students to engage in their learning and to show this engagement through their effective participation in learning activities, completion of assessment tasks and full participation in scheduled College activities.

At the end of each year at St Philip’s College staff make an assessment of a student’s achievement in their subject/s for the whole year. These assessments are considered by the Director of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum, Assistant Deputy Headmaster (Students) and the respective students Head of House in relation to a student’s readiness to be promoted to the next year level. To assist with these decisions, the criteria below will be used to ensure consistent decisions and processes.

Promotions criteria for students with attendance issues

Chronic non-attenders (less than 60% attendance at school or lessons), will not be automatically promoted to the next year level.

Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.

Once students have begun to absent themselves from school, and the initial cause of this remains undetected or unexplored, it is likely that the pattern of absence will continue and escalate through their subsequent school career.

Process

Promotion from Year 7 to 8, Year 8 to 9 or Year 9 to 10

A letter will be sent home informing parents/caregivers of the decision not to promote the student due to non-attendance. The letter will invite parents/caregivers to arrange a meeting to discuss this decision.

Promotion to Year 11

For promotion from Year 10 to Year 11 a ‘D’ grade or better in BOTH English and Mathematics must be demonstrated.

A letter to be sent home informing parents/caregivers of the decision not to promote the student due to grades of ‘E’ in both English and Mathematics, indicating that the student is likely to be unsuccessful with the literacy and numeracy demands of the Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE). The letter will invite parents/caregivers to arrange a meeting to discuss this decision.

Promotion to Year 12

To be classified as a Year 12 student, students must be enrolled in 3 full year Stage 2 subjects. If the student does not meet this criterion, they will be classified as Year 11.