



BLUE HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL

BASE Initiative

Our school aims to celebrate and recognise positive attendance through our 'Be at School Everyday' (BASE) attendance initiative. We would like to provide some clarity around the initiative for families.



Our school, following Department of Education guidelines, and recognises that there are times when students need to be absent from school. These are called **'justified absences'**, and include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease;
- having an unavoidable medical appointment;
- Principal approved leave for holidays;
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday; or
- exceptional / urgent family circumstances.

In these cases, the roll is marked as a justified absence, and this does contribute to a child's attendance rate.

When reasons are provided that do not fall into these categories, they are recorded as an **'explained – unjustified absence'** as they fall outside the criteria. When no reason is provided, they are recorded as **'unexplained – unjustified absence'**. These also contribute to your child's attendance rate. The unjustified absences are currently over-represented in our school attendance data.

The Department of Education has a goal of a 95% attendance for every student. For our school, this is an aspirational target. As much as we would like to achieve this, we recognise that children's health and wellbeing will have an impact. Through our BASE initiative, we hope to reduce unjustified absences and recognise and reward students for positive attendance. We have lots of rewards and incentives on offer from weekly whole school class winners, ice blocks and much more.

The Attendance Team will be providing the community with a more detailed note about the program and how it will work in practice. It was the intention of the Attendance Team to create a system of support for the parents that are finding it hard to motivate their children of a morning so that they will want to be at school and thereby reduce the stress parents might face in the morning.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the school via email at bluehaven-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au for us to be able to contact you to discuss them.

Kind regards,

Dale Edwards
Principal