

5th June 2026

Dear Parents, Whānau, and Caregivers,

## Attendance Update June 2026

At Elim Christian College Mt Albert, we believe that regular school attendance is of utmost importance to your child's academic achievement, personal wellbeing, and long-term success.

As you will be aware, the Ministry of Education has introduced the **Stepped Attendance Response (STAR)** framework nationwide. Starting this year, all schools must integrate this framework into their attendance planning to establish clear, structured, and consistent practices for tracking and addressing student absences.

We have carefully tailored these guidelines into our official school Attendance Plan. You can read this in full on our website.

## Understanding the STAR Thresholds

The STAR framework organises attendance into clear brackets based on the total number of days a student is absent within a single school term. Our school teams will be actively monitoring these data points and reaching out to collaborate with you if your child's attendance begins to shift across these thresholds:

| Attendance Level                                                       | Term Absence Threshold                  | Our Response & Support Team                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GOOD ATTENDANCE</b><br><i>Good chance of success</i>                | <b>Less than 5 days</b> absent per term | We will celebrate excellent attendance, track data accurately through Kamar, and provide regular updates.                                                       |
| <b>WORRYING ATTENDANCE</b><br><i>Less chance of success</i>            | <b>5 to 9 days</b> absent per term      | <b>Pastoral Care / Classroom Teachers</b> will reach out via automated notification to check in, identify initial barriers, and discuss the impact on learning. |
| <b>CONCERNING ATTENDANCE</b><br><i>Hard to make progress</i>           | <b>10 to 14 days</b> absent per term    | Our <b>Kaiarahi Team</b> will formally contact you to schedule a proactive meeting, analyse patterns, and build a localised support plan together.              |
| <b>VERY CONCERNING ATTENDANCE</b><br><i>Very hard to make progress</i> | <b>15+ days</b> absent per term         | Our <b>Kaitiaki Team &amp; School Leadership</b> will implement an escalated response, which may include formal warning notices and multi-agency support.       |

## How we plan to improve together

Our data from 2025 showed regular attendance fluctuation across terms (Term 1: 76%, Term 2: 73%, Term 3: 58%, and Term 4: 69%). For 2026, our strategic goal is to consistently improve upon the previous year's statistics each term. We will achieve this through:

- Sending regular attendance updates in newsletter, and automated notifications to keep you fully informed.
- Aligning attendance with our *Kotahitanga* focus points: *Manaakitanga* (respect) and *Pukuahuwhenua* (diligence).
- Formally acknowledging classes with the best attendance, providing Principal updates, and awarding certificates for 100% attendance at the end of each term.
- Implementing clear consequences for unjustified absences, such as taking unapproved family holidays during term time.

## Our shared responsibility

Ensuring your child attends school every day is a partnership. If your child is going to be absent, please notify the school as early as possible via our absence form on the school website. If you are experiencing barriers or difficulties getting your child to school, please reach out to their classroom or pastoral care teacher right away so we can work with you on a support plan.

For further national context, you can visit the Ministry of Education's direct resource link at <https://www.education.govt.nz/stepped-attendance-response-star>.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to give our students the best foundation for their futures.

Ngā mihi nui,

Tania Calvert

### Principal

Elim Christian College Mt Albert

Joseph Zoutenbier

### Attendance Lead

Elim Christian College Mt Albert