Attendance matters: it’s not OK to be away!

From the beginning of 2015, family holidays and travel are no longer considered exempt. Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as a student absence and consultation between the Principal and parent(s) will need to occur regarding the intention of travel. Where the Principal considers travel as appropriate during school term, parents will be issued an ‘Application for Extended Leave-Travel’ and informed that if the application is accepted the absences will be recorded as “L” i.e. Leave.

Travel is considered to be domestic or international travel for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons and the application form needs to specify the reason for extended leave. The Principal will request travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e-ticket, which needs to be attached to the application.

When the travel period exceeds one school term, access to Distance Education must be considered by the parent.

If the Principal accepts the parent’s application for extended leave or travel, a ‘Certificate of Extended Leave-Travel’ will be issued, with the original presented to the parent and a copy placed in the student’s file. If the Principal declines the parent’s Application for Extended Leave-Travel, the parent must be advised in writing.

If student(s) does not return on the specified dates, the parent is contacted to establish the whereabouts of the student. If contact is not established, then procedures will lead to the application of a Home School Liaison Program support.

These new procedures reflect the concerns put forward by the newspaper article that was published in the school’s newsletter for the past two weeks. The article clearly indicated that Principals were concerned about student attendance and in particular, student absenteeism as a result of parents organising family holidays during school terms, rather than during school vacation periods.

Kiama High School seeks the support of parents on this matter and requests for extended leave, especially family holidays, to be organised during normal school vacation periods. Traditionally, the bond between the school and its community is very strong and it is necessary for this relationship to continue to strengthen, to ensure both welfare and educational outcomes of students are achieved.

Remember, Be on time, be at school; it’s the rule.

DEC Student Attendance Policy:


DEC Student Attendance Procedures 2015:

https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_admin/attendance/sch_polproc/implementation_1_PD20050259_i.shtml

DEC Exemption for School Procedures 2015