

"LET PEACE BE FOUND HERE"

St John's Primary School

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SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS/ PUPIL FREE DAYS POLICY

RATIONALE:

Pupil free days provide opportunities for professional development for the whole staff of the school. This aims to promote effective learning for all staff, achieve a balance between curriculum areas, avoids unnecessary disruption to the life of the school and to family life, and ensures teaching and learning experiences in Catholic schools are grounded in best practice.

DEFINITIONS:

Pupil Free Days are days in which the students do not attend school and where staff are involved in planned professional development.

School Closure Days are planned school holidays with the permission of the School Advisory Council.

School holidays are notified and published by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) in the Education Gazette.

POLICY:

At St John's School, pupil free days will be held during the year, to allow the staff to attend appropriate professional development as a whole group.

GUIDELINES:

Pupil free days will be determined by the School Leadership Team in consultation with the Canonical Administrator and School Board. It is expected that staff of St John's School will have up to Four Pupil Free Days per year which must include a Religious Education Day. The school Leadership Team may request an extra day when engaged in the School Improvement Framework process (School Review).

Pupil Free Days

- The first and last days of the school year will be pupil free.
- Suitable professional development activities will be organized by the Principal and Leadership Team for pupil free days. Such professional development will be part of the planning and resource allocation proposed for the year.
- The School will notify the Zone Educational Consultant for approval of pupil free days.
- Schools are encouraged to allocate one of the four pupil free days for Religious Education and where applicable, another for the purposes of attending the Zone Education Conference.
- The School will notify the Director of Religious Education for approval of Religious Education pupil free days.

School Closure Days

- School Closure days will normally be the designated public holidays.
- In determining other school closure days (eg May Race Day), the organization of the local community is to be taken into account (eg. Buses, local Department of Education and Early Childhood Development school closure days, community holidays).

School Holidays

- School terms are to correspond with those notified and published by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in the Education Gazette.

Where possible, the school will notify parents of proposed dates for pupil free/ school closure/ school holidays, at the beginning of each school year.

References

CEO Closure Days/ Pupil Free Days Policy

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development - Education Gazette

Reviewed: 2012

Ratified: 30 Apr 2013

Date of next review: 2015