

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: A GUIDE FOR WHĀNAU

Navigating school attendance codes can be confusing.

Here is a simple breakdown of the Ministry of Education codes that track your child's time and what those marks mean for their attendance.



Present at School

Your child is marked present if they are **physically on-site** or taking part in an activity the school officially considers "being at school."

This includes:

- In Class
- On-Site Activities
- Approved Off-Site Learning
- Necessary Appointments



How Absences Affect Attendance Percentages

It is a common misunderstanding that a "Justified" absence doesn't "count" against a student.

A justified absence still counts as an absence in your child's overall attendance percentage.



Justified Absence

A "Justified" mark means your child is not at school, but the school has reviewed your explanation and accepted it as a valid reason for missing class.

Common examples include:

- Health
- Family
- Representation
- Disciplinary



A "Justified" mark tells the school that the reason for the absence is acceptable, but still indicates the student missed out on that day of learning.