



## **Procedure: School Absence to Attend Private Snow Sports Programmes**

### **Rationale:**

New Zealand law requires that a child between the ages of six and sixteen be enrolled at a registered school and attend or hold an exemption to home-school. Wānaka Primary School believes that regular attendance at school is vital to children's learning at school.

### **Guidelines:**

1. Children attending a snow sports programme may be given permission to do so if the non-attendance at school is not affecting their learning or social behaviour. They will be marked with an 'E' (the absence explained but not justified). Parents are asked to complete an Online Pupil Leave Request – Snow Sports Programmes.
2. The following statements are noted on the leave request form for parents to agree to:
  - I take full responsibility for my child's safety and learning during this time
  - I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for missed instruction or any effect this may have on my child's learning
  - I understand that teachers do not provide extra work or special programmes during this time
3. For children opting out of school for more than a 1-day programme, then the situation needs to be considered carefully, taking into account the child's age, progress in learning, social situation and the support from home for their school learning.
4. The Board considers that 2 or more days absence from school each week over the term, does not constitute **regular** attendance. This would create too much disruption in the child's learning, in the teacher's work and within the class itself as the student would always be in catch up mode.
5. Therefore children who attend 2 or more week days in an external snow sports programme may not be deemed to be regular attendees and therefore are not eligible for enrolment.
6. For families opting into a programme not deemed to be in the best interests of the child's learning at school, the Principal will advise the parents to seek an exemption from the Ministry to home-school, or access learning through Te Kura.