



Educating the Future

**JINDABYNE  
CENTRAL  
SCHOOL**

# **WINTER SNOWSPORTS – EXEMPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS OF ATTENDANCE**

## **Advice for Parents**

### **Background**

Being nestled at the foothills of some of the best snow resorts in Australia, Jindabyne Central School has a unique and proud culture in snow sports. Every year, JCS welcomes a large number of families from across the state who join us for the winter season. The addition of these students adds to the vibrancy and excitement of the snow season at our school.

### **Rationale**

All winter enrolments at Jindabyne Central School are subject to the key values of the school and winter sports program. The general principles around enrolment are as follows, **in order of priority**:

- **First and foremost, Jindabyne Central School is committed to improving the educational outcomes of all students who attend the school** – As a school, our priority lies with education. Whilst we support and celebrate winter sports, learning comes first.
- **Jindabyne Central School recognizes the importance of continuity of education for students who are temporarily enrolled** – At JCS we will endeavour to work closely with students' home schools to ensure that there is a continuity of teaching and learning. In most cases, students will continue to follow a pattern of study set by their home school.
- **Jindabyne Central School recognizes and supports the demands of snowsports athletes who are officially identified as elite in their field of competition** – JCS supports elite athletes by ensuring that learning is tailored to meet the rigorous demands of programs established by SSA and NSWIS.
- **Jindabyne Central School recognizes the importance of wintersports in the Jindabyne Community** – JCS takes pride in working with the local community, including our local resorts, to ensure that a balance between quality education and winter sports during the stay of our short term students.

## Attendance at School in Winter Months

The expectation is that **all students at Jindabyne Central School attend school on a regular basis**. In term 3, this means that all students attend school Monday to Friday (for students in years 5-10, this includes the JCS Snow sports program on Friday OR the alternative winter program). This expectation is a non-negotiable part of enrolment at Jindabyne Central School (not including exceptional circumstances listed below) as education is our highest priority.

## EXCEPTIONS

### Exemptions – Elite Snow Sports Athletes

Some winter students will be selected on an elite pathway by the two premier bodies for SnowSports in our region, Ski and Snowboard Australia (SSA) and the NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS).

Students identified by these bodies on elite pathways may be eligible to apply for *exemption from school* for the period of time required for them to partake in these programs. This can include full exemption for the winter period.

Parents of students on elite pathways are requested to bring documented evidence when enrolling their children so this process can be undertaken as soon as possible.

### EXEMPTION – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

School exemption is granted when it is in the student's best interest in the short and long term. Elite sports people can be provided up to 100 days exemption for sports. *Exemptions from school are not marked as absences from school.*

### When students meet the threshold for exemption, JCS will:

- Ensure that education plans are developed for the student taking into consideration the demands of their program
- Ensure that support is available for students during and after their absence.
- Ensure that a certificate of exemption is organised for the student.

### Families and Students are expected to:

- Work with staff to ensure an appropriate educational program is designed for students on elite pathways
- Engage with curriculum requirements (particularly in Years 11 and 12).

### **Justified Absence – Perisher and Thredbo Scholarships/Other Scholarships**

Some of our winter students will also participate in scholarship programs run by various resorts. These scholarship programs are pathways to NSWIS and SSA.

A scholarship is defined as a training program *offered* to a student based on their *competency in snowsports*, which does not involve payment by parents or personal enrolment.

Students who are part of scholarship programs may negotiate *justified school absence* with JCS for up to three days a week (Friday included). Justified school absence is not the same as school exemption, and will be recorded as an absence on student records.

### **Justified School Absence – What does it mean?**

Justified School Absence is when the school recognises that a student is absent from school for a valid reason, although this reason is not proactively condoned by the school.

Justified absences do not face attendance follow up from school or governmental departments.

### **When students meet the threshold for justified school absence, JCS will:**

- Ensure students records adequately reflect leave
- Ensure that students are advised of work they need to catch up on.
- Provide adequate reports to parents and home schools.

### **Families and Students are expected to:**

- Keep up to date with the work provided by JCS and/or home schools.
- Attend schools on days justified absence has not been provided.

## STUDENTS COMING FROM OUT OF AREA AND WHO DO NOT MEET THE EXCEPTION FROM ATTENDANCE THRESHOLD

**Paid Skiing and Snowboard academy programs** – Jindabyne Central School does not recognize paid ski programs as a justifiable absence from school. Parents from out of zone who wish to enrol their students into snow sports programs during the winter period are advised they will need to do the following:

- Enrol their children into programs that run only on weekends. In some instances, JCS will consider programs that involve Friday participation in lieu of being part of the school's winter sports program.

OR

- Seek exemption from their home school based on being out of area. In this event, the student would not be enrolled at JCS and parents would be responsible for co-ordinating home study.

OR

- Enrol in distance education centres through their home schools.

## STUDENTS ENGAGING IN TEMPORARY ENROLMENT FOR TERM 3

Jindabyne Central School will work closely with students' normal schools to ensure there is a continuity of learning. In most situations, students in the secondary school will continue to follow patterns of study set by their home schools in a classroom where appropriate supervision and support is provided by JCS staff.

In some instances, students may be best served by enrolling in distance education temporarily. The closest distance education centre to Jindabyne Central School is the Finigan School of Distance Education (Karabar Distance Education Unit). Enrolment in some subjects may incur a cost to parents.

At the end of winter enrolment, JCS will provide a report for students to take back to their home schools.

## What happens if my child does not attend school?

Access to education is a legal right for children and parents are considered the responsible party for ensuring that their children regularly attend school.

Failure to ensure students attend school, other than for exemption and justified absence purposes, may result in the following:

- Legal action taken by the Department of Education and NSW Attorney General. This comes after intervention from a Home School Liaison Officer.
- Students not meeting indicative hour requirements may not be eligible for the ROSA and/or HSC in senior years of study.
- JCS may reconsider and decline winter enrolment for out of zone families in future years.