



Samford Valley Steiner School Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy

Communicating with families about changes in enrolment status

- a) All communications regarding changes to enrolment status will be made directly with students and parents, in accordance with the latest contact details provided to the school.
- b) Parents must therefore keep *Samford Valley Steiner School* informed of their current contact details, as per the conditions of the student visa.
- c) Where relevant and where approved by the parents, the school may also share copies of correspondence with the child's education agent to help facilitate communication about any changes in enrolment status. However, the parents with whom the school has a formal written agreement are the primary contact for the school in such matters. The school will not act on any decision affecting the student's enrolment that is not made by the parents.

STUDENT-INITIATED CHANGES IN ENROLMENT

Samford Valley Steiner School of commencement of study requested by student

Samford Valley Steiner School will only grant a deferment of commencement of studies for compassionate and compelling circumstances. These include but are not limited to:

- illness, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes
- bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (where possible a death certificate should be provided)
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring emergency
- a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student (these cases should be where possible supported by police or psychologists' reports)

All applications for *Samford Valley Steiner School* or suspension will be considered within 10 working days from lodgement of application.

The final decision for assessing and granting a *Samford Valley Steiner School* of commencement of studies lies with the Senior Leadership Team. Where a student's request to defer his/her commencement of studies is refused, the student has a right of appeal see *Samford Valley Steiner School's* Complaints and Appeals policy **Error! Bookmark not defined..**

Samford Valley Steiner School will be recorded on PRISMS within 14 days of being granted.

Suspension of study requested by student

Once the student has commenced the course, SVSS will only grant a suspension of study for compassionate and compelling circumstances. These include but are not limited to;

- illness, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes

- bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (where possible a death certificate should be provided)
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring
- emergency travel that has impacted on studies
- a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student (these cases should be where possible supported by police or psychologists' reports)

Where there is a significant issue impacting upon a student's attendance or course progress, it is essential that the student or parents contact the school as soon as possible to discuss the concern so that appropriate support can be put in place. Where deemed necessary, this may involve temporarily suspending the student's enrolment so that matters can be resolved without having a negative impact on the student's ability to satisfy their visa conditions.

Suspensions will be recorded on PRISMS within 14 days of being granted if the student is under 18 years of age, and within 31 days if the student is over 18 years of age.

Temporary suspensions of study cannot exceed 6 months duration.

The period of suspension will not be included in attendance calculations.

As part of any assessment of a request to defer or temporarily suspend studies, the impact of the request on the student's ability to complete their intended course of study in accordance with their CoE/s and student visa will be considered. Any implications will be communicated to students.

All applications for Samford Valley Steiner School or suspension will be considered within 10 working days from lodgement of application.

The final decision for assessing and granting a suspension of studies lies with the Senior Leadership Team. Where a student's request to suspend studies is refused, the student has a right of appeal (see *Samford Valley Steiner School's* Complaints and Appeals policy **Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

Student-initiated cancellation of enrolment

All notification of withdrawal from a course or applications for refunds, must be made in writing and submitted to, please see SVSS Refund Policy [for information regarding refunds.

A student will be deemed to have inactively notified *Samford Valley Steiner School* of cancellation of enrolment where:

- i. the student has not yet finished his/her course/s of study with the school, and
- ii. does not resume studies at the school within [14 days] after a holiday break, and
- iii. the student has not previously provided the school with written notification of withdrawal.

Student-initiated cancellation of enrolment, including "inactive" cancellation of enrolment mentioned above, is not subject to SVSS 's Complaints and Appeals Policy.



Student-initiated cancellation of enrolment, including “inactive” cancellation of enrolment mentioned above, is not subject to SVSS’s Complaints and Appeals Policy.

SCHOOL-INITIATED CHANGES IN ENROLMENT

School-initiated exclusion from class

SVSS may exclude a student from class studies on the grounds of misbehaviour by the student. Exclusion will occur as the result of any behaviour identified as resulting in exclusion in SVSS Behaviour Policy/Code of Conduct.

Students may also be excluded from class for failure to pay fees that he/she was required to pay in order to undertake or continue the course, as stated in the written agreement.

Where SVSS intends to exclude a student from class it will first issue a letter which notifies the student and parents of this intention. The letter will provide details of the reason/s for the intended exclusion, as well as information about how to access *Samford Valley Steiner School* ‘s internal appeals process. Further information about the appeals process in the event of a school-initiated exclusion from class is outlined below.

Excluded students must abide by the conditions of their exclusion from studies and must adhere to any welfare and accommodation arrangements in place, as determined by the Education Administrator

Where the student is provided with homework or other studies for the period of the exclusion, the student must continue to meet the academic requirements of the course.

Exclusions from class will not be included in attendance calculations for the study period and will not be recorded on PRISMS.

School initiated suspension of studies

SVSS may initiate a suspension of studies for a student on the grounds of misbehaviour by the student. Suspension will occur as the result of any behaviour identified in SVSS Behaviour Policy/Code of Conduct, or as determined by the Leadership Team where appropriate.

Students may also be suspended for failure to pay fees that he/she was required to pay in order to undertake or continue the course, as stated in the student’s written agreement.

Where SVSS intends to suspend the enrolment of a student, it will first issue a letter that notifies the student and parents of this intention. The letter will provide details of the reason/s for the intended suspension, as well as information about how to access SVSS’s internal appeals process. Further information about the appeals process in the event of a school-initiated suspension is outlined below.

Suspended students must abide by the conditions of their suspension from studies, which will depend on the welfare and accommodation arrangements in place for each student and which will be determined by the Leadership Team.

Students who have been suspended for more than 28 days may need to contact

Department of Immigration. (Please see contact details at :

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us.>)

Suspensions will be recorded on PRISMS.

The period of suspension will not be included in attendance calculations.

School initiated cancellation of enrolment

SVSS will cancel the enrolment of a student under the following conditions;

- Any breach of an agreed condition of enrolment as outlined in the student's written agreement, including failure to disclose a pre-existing condition requiring a high degree of specialised support or care
- Failure to pay course fees.
- Failure to maintain approved welfare and accommodation arrangements (visa condition 8532) where applicable.
- Any behaviour identified in SVSS Behaviour Policy/Code of Conduct, or as may be determined by the Leadership Group where appropriate.

Where SVSS intends to cancel the enrolment of a student it will first issue a letter which notifies the student and parents of this intention. The letter will also provide details of the reason/s for the intended cancellation, as well as information about how to access SVSS's appeals process.

SVSS is required to report any confirmed breach of course progress and attendance requirements to the Department of Immigration. Where a student is reported for breach of visa condition, his/her enrolment at SVSS will be cancelled and this may impact on the student's visa. Further information can be found in SVSS's Course Progress and Attendance Policy.

For the duration of the internal appeals process, SVSS will maintain the student's enrolment and the student will attend classes as normal. The School Director will determine if participation in studies will be in class or under a supervised arrangement outside of classes.

If a student decides to access SVSS's complaints and appeals process because they have been notified of a school initiated suspension or cancellation of enrolment under Standard 9, the change in enrolment status will not be reported in PRISMS until the internal complaints and appeals process is finalised, unless extenuating circumstances relating to the welfare of the student apply (see Definitions below).

Where extenuating circumstances are deemed to exist, a student may still access the complaints and appeals process, but SVSS need not await the outcome of this process

before changing the student's enrolment status in PRISMS. If the school has issued a CAAW for such a student, welfare provisions under Standard 5.6 are applicable.

The use of extenuating circumstances by SVSS to suspend or cancel a student's enrolment prior to the completion of any complaints and appeals process will be supported by appropriate evidence.

The final decision for evaluating extenuating circumstances lies with the Senior Leadership Team.

Student to seek information from Department of Immigration

Samford Valley Steiner School, suspension and cancellation of enrolment can have an effect on a student's visa as a result of changes to enrolment status. Students can visit the Department of Home Affairs (Immigration) Website <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500> for further information about their visa conditions and obligations.

Definitions

Extenuating circumstances - if the student's health or wellbeing, or the wellbeing of others, is likely to be at risk.

Examples include:

- the student refuses to maintain approved welfare and accommodation arrangements (for students under 18 years of age)
- the student is missing
- the student has medical concerns or severe depression or psychological issues which lead the school to fear for the student's wellbeing
- the student has engaged or threatened to engage in behaviour that is reasonably believed to endanger the student or others
- is at risk of committing a criminal offence, or
- the student is the subject of investigation relating to criminal matters.