

PARF Explainer: Middle Years (7-10) Transcript

Hi! My name is Adrienne Warner and I'm the middle school leader at Virtual School Victoria. This is a short video designed to help practitioners and agencies complete the required practitioner/agency referral form to support their clients' application to enrol at our school. The information provided on this form is vital to ensure that we place students in an appropriate learning program.

Students at VSV learn through a combination of asynchronous (module work) and synchronous (online lessons) materials. All Year 7-10 students are expected to attend live online classes via WebEx. Most subjects have one online lesson a week that runs for 50 minutes.

Students are also expected to complete module work in their own time. A module is like a mini unit and can be completed whenever the student chooses to do it (including evenings and weekends), as long as the student submits work to their teacher by Friday of every week.

The first question on the form is about your recommendation for the student's ability to attend live online lessons. Your answer will determine how we mark this student's attendance. The first option is for students who can attend online lessons and fully participate in an online space with their teacher and peers. This may involve using microphone and webcam, or just the chat box, whatever is most comfortable for them. The second option is for students who are able to attend the online lessons but may not be ready to engage with their teacher or classmates, so will begin with simply observing. The third option is for students who can only attend an online lesson with the support of a parent, carer, or support worker. The last option is for students who are unable to attend online lessons.

Next, you will be asked to provide your recommendation on the student's workload capacity. If the student is a shared enrolment between Virtual School Victoria and another school, then this recommendation takes into account the total number of hours that the student is able to complete, across both schools. Students on a 100% workload can complete 25 hours of learning per week, which includes time spent in online lessons and completing module work across 6-7 subjects.

A fulltime student will be enrolled in the full curriculum which includes English, Maths, Science, Health & PE, Arts, Technology, Humanities, and Social Emotional Learning. A student on a 75% workload can complete 18 hours of learning per week. These students will still be enrolled in a full complement of subjects but can work with subject teachers to reduce or adjust some of the schoolwork. Students on a 50% workload can complete 12 hours of learning per week and will only be enrolled in the yearlong subjects: English, Maths, Science, and Health & PE with the option to reduce or adjust within these courses. Students on a 25% workload can complete 6 hours of learning per week and are only enrolled in two courses: English or Literacy as well as Maths or Numeracy. Literacy and numeracy skills are crucial for students to thrive in today's increasingly complex world, so it is expected that all students complete these courses as a minimum.

The final option is 0%, also known as 'not yet ready to learn'. This should only be selected in extreme circumstances where the student's mental and/or physical health completely prevents them from engaging in any form of education at this time. In this situation, the student will still be allocated a homeroom teacher who will endeavour to build a relationship and foster a positive educational experience for the student. The student will also have access to our orientation materials but will not be enrolled in any subjects. If you believe that your client falls under this category, please ensure that this recommendation is continually monitored and tracked.

There is no safe threshold for prolonged absences from school and our aim is to get students back into learning as soon as possible. If at any point your recommendation for the student's workload increases or decreases, please let us know so we can make the subject changes accordingly.

The rest of the form will ask you to provide information about your client and how this will affect their ability to engage with their learning at our school. Please be as detailed and honest as possible so that we can put appropriate supports in place.

Thank you for watching. Please reach out to our enrolments team if you have any other questions about how to complete this referral form.