



"Address the issue
of attendance
in the school"

Working together to give back to the community.

When Mobilefone Solutions approached Penrose High School with the idea of sponsoring a sports team they found a way they could help that was more profound for the community as a whole.

Like at all schools, attendance was an issue and as the research clearly shows, a lack of attendance has a direct impact on the achievement of the students. This also has wider repercussions throughout the community.

Mobilefone Solutions saw an opportunity to use mobile phone technology to "address the issue of attendance in the school". Hence the Rolltrack idea was born.

“The training provided by Mobile Mentor was a big step towards the success of Rolltrack’s implementation”

Nick Coughlan
Assistant Principal

Rolltrack

Rolltrack is based on an 'absence tracking' system where teachers use mobile phones to access class rolls and complete attendance checks on the spot. The data is immediately sent over the Vodafone data network to a central school server and Penrose High School then uses this information to contact families of absent children.

Due to the immediate transfer of the data an accurate rate of attendance is instantly attained. There is no manual entry of data by attendance officers and more importantly no need for students to lose classroom time being a 'runner'. Parents and caregivers are also able to receive timely information. Beyond the obvious benefits to the children's education is the financial benefit to the school.

A successful pilot of a dozen teachers in June 2005 proved the system's effectiveness and led to Penrose High School successfully integrating Rolltrack as its primary absence tracking system in 2006.

One of the most important factors in Rolltrack's success was getting every teacher to learn the application and adopt it into their classroom routine. Deputy Principal Nick Coughlan explained that "some of the teachers had never had a mobile phone before and there was always going to be some resistance with the new system". Mobilefone Solutions looked to Mobile Mentor to provide a training solution to overcome the technical barriers and increase teachers confidence with the phones.



“Rolltrack is 100% successful for me”

Reid Archer
Teacher

Mobile Mentor

From the day teachers received their phones Mobile Mentor was involved in the Rolltrack initiative and delivered a series of short, punchy training sessions. Through the training they addressed objections and concerns helping to ensure school wide adoption. This support continued after the initial group trainings with a number of one-to-one sessions.

The response from teachers towards Mobile Mentor was overwhelmingly positive. Teacher Reid Archer saw the Mobile Mentor training as a "big step" towards overcoming barriers. The school now has almost 100% roll return from teachers.

Nick Coughlan sees Rolltrack as setting a benchmark for the way attendance can be managed in schools. Mobilefone solutions hopes to promote the service to other schools throughout Auckland and the rest of the country, becoming a much needed community wide initiative.