

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ATTENDANCE

Is regular attendance important?

Yes, from the very first day! If children and students miss the basic skills in the early years of schooling they often experience learning difficulties later on. It has been shown that irregular attendance in the early school years can lead to poor patterns of attendance in primary and then secondary years.

Do I have to send my child to preschool and school?

Yes. All children who are enrolled in an educational setting are expected to attend on a regular basis.

Do I have to send my child every day?

Yes, unless:

- The child is too sick to leave the house.
- The child has an infectious disease like chicken pox, mumps or measles.
- The child has an injury preventing movement around school.
- The child is going with his/her parents/caregivers on a family holiday that cannot be arranged during school holidays. This is arranged with the principal prior to the absence by applying for a school exemption.
- The principal is provided with any genuine and acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.
- A medical or dental appointment could not be made out of school hours (wherever possible, appointments should be made out of school hours).

Must I notify the school if my child has been away?

Yes. On your child's return, a note must be supplied to cover the days missed. You are also encouraged to contact the school if your child will be away. If your child has seen a medical practitioner (eg doctor, dentist) a note or appointment card from the practitioner will help explain the absence.

Should I notify the school if my child refuses to go?

Yes. You should immediately contact the school to seek assistance.

What assistance is available?

There are many staff members who can assist you if attendance is an issue for your child. You can discuss your concerns with your child's class teacher, school counsellor, year level manager, deputy or principal