

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

IS YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL?

Compulsory enrolment and attendance at school

Under the Education Act of South Australia, parents and/or caregivers are responsible for the regular attendance of all children in their care.

All children aged between 6 and 17 years of age must be enrolled and attend school regularly.

Is regular attendance important?

Yes: From the first day! If students miss the basic skills in the early years of school, they often experience difficulties later. It has been shown that irregular attendance in the junior primary and primary years often leads to the development of poor attendance at high school.

Do I have to send my child to school?

Yes: All children once enrolled and until 16 years are required by law to attend school regularly.

Must I send my child everyday?

Yes: Unless:

- ◆ The child is too sick to attend
- ◆ The child has an infectious disease like chickenpox, mumps or measles
- ◆ The child is incapacitated by injury preventing movement around the school.
- ◆ The child is accompanying his or her parents and/or caregivers on a family holiday, which cannot be arranged in school vacations. An exemption should be sought from the Principal prior to the absence
- ◆ The Principal is provided with an acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance

Parents are required to notify of the reason for absence so that teachers can record this in our official records.

Absences are coded in the following ways:

I	Illness without medical certificate
C	Illness with a medical certificate
F	Urgent and pressing family matters which can not be undertaken outside of school hours e.g. family funeral
U	Unexplained

For extended family circumstances (including holidays) an exemption must be sought from the Principal.

Illness for a period of more than three consecutive days needs to be supported by a Medical Certificate.

When you child's attendance is between 95-97%. They are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies and they have real opportunities to develop strong friendships.

When you child's attendance is between 90-95%. They have missed a number of days in a term which makes it difficult for them to achieve their best. A child missing this many days a term will miss up to 1 year of schooling between Reception and yr 10.

When you child's attendance is between 80-90%. They have missed so much time from school that it will be very difficult to keep up with work and keep in touch with friends. A child missing this many days each term could miss up to 2 years of schooling between reception and yr 10

When you child's attendance is below 80%. They have missed so much time from school it will be almost impossible for them to keep up with their school work or keep in touch with friends. A child missing this many days each term will miss over 3 years of schooling between reception and yr 10