

Student Attendance

It is important for all students to be at school every day. When deciding whether to keep your child home from school, please consider the following:

A child should be at school unless:

- The child is too sick to leave the house.
- The child has an infectious disease like measles, chickenpox
- The child has an injury preventing safe movement around the school
- The child is going on a family holiday that cannot be arranged during school holidays. This must be arranged with the principal in advance.
- 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).

Phone school on 3208 2868 if child is absent. If your child has seen a medical practitioner a certificate will help explain the absence.

You should also contact the school in advance if you know your child will be away.

Reporting an absence from school

It is essential that a phone call to the school office on the morning of the absence be made. This ensures that both home and school know the whereabouts of the child for the day. If children are to be taken out of school for any length of time e.g. holiday, hospitalisation, both the Principal and class teacher need to be notified as soon as possible.

Remember

If students miss the basic skills in the early years of schooling they often experience learning difficulties later on.

There is a direct link between attendance and achievement.

It has been shown that poor patterns of attendance in the early years can lead to poor patterns of attendance throughout the school years.

Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive friendships with their peers.

Lateness

At times, we have had a number of students who regularly turn up late to school. Unfortunately this is a situation that can have a negative effect on the education of not only those students who are late, but also the other students in the class.

What impact does being late have on the students?

Students who are late may miss vital instructions and information about what is happening, not to mention important learning situations. This means that they have to catch up somehow. It's like being late for a movie and not being able to understand what's happening because you've missed the beginning of the storyline.

Students can feel unsettled, disorganised and unhappy for the rest of the day and it can take them some time to complete and understand the work that they have missed. Understanding that there are important expectations about arriving on time is vital preparation for readiness to deal with the real world later in life.

How does it affect the other students in the class?

Students who are late have an unsettling effect on the rest of the class. Often teachers will need to repeat instructions, go over information or stop teaching a concept in order to settle a student who has arrived late. These interruptions are disruptive to the whole class. Students who arrive late often have things that need to be done prior to them joining the class which cause even further disruption. Sometimes students have to wait to get the teacher's attention and important issues can be forgotten.

How does student lateness cause difficulties for the teacher?

The teacher has a certain amount of material and activities to cover each lesson. Also organisational issues are usually dealt with at the beginning of the day. Teachers can become increasingly frustrated when late students continually and repeatedly interrupt their planned routines, as they have to stop teaching to deal with the issues involved.

We are all human. Cars can break down an unexpected situation can occur. We know the family morning routines are not always straightforward. If you are experiencing problems, please speak to us, as we may be able to offer suggestions to help.

We are happy to accept that students will be late on the odd occasion because of unforeseen circumstances. However, arriving late on a regular basis is not acceptable.

Remember

Being half an hour late to school each day from prep to Year 10 adds up to missing the equivalent of one year and one and a half terms of school.