

Information for parents and carers

Regular school attendance

HEALTHY HABITS

FAQs

Why is regular school attendance important?

Did you know? Queensland research shows that higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Your child will achieve more when they go to school all day, every school day:

- They learn better.
- They make friends.
- They have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse.

Illness, natural disaster, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are reasonable excuses for being absent from school. Principals decide if the excuse given for your child's absence is reasonable.

Having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?

- Won't get out of bed in the morning
- Won't go to bed at night
- Can't find their uniform, books, school bag
- Slow to eat breakfast
- Haven't done their homework
- Watching TV
- Have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- It's their birthday

A set routine can help

- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have a set time to get out of bed
- Have the uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Set a time for daily homework activities
- Speak about school positively
- Be firm. Send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?

YES

You must let the school know the reason why your child is absent from school – either beforehand, on the day of the absence, or as soon as practicable after your child's return to school.

What should I do if my child won't go to school?

You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

When should I avoid keeping my child away from school?

- Avoid keeping your child away from school for birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or care such as hair cuts.
- By law, you must ensure your child attends school regularly, unless there's a valid reason. Schools will follow up any unexplained absences.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?

- You are encouraged to not schedule holidays during school time. However, if your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child.
- Depending on the circumstances, the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent. Discuss your plans with the school as early as possible.

