

## Frequently asked questions

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

Yes – Parents should provide an explanation for their child’s absence before any absence, on the day of the absence, or as soon as practicable.

### Can I take my child out of school for family or social occasions?

No – You should arrange leisure activities, visits to family and friends and shopping trips outside of school hours.

### Does the occasional day away from school really affect my child’s education?

Yes – Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

### What should I do if my child refuses to go to school?

Contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

## For further information and support

Talk with your school about your child’s attendance or any support you may need.

Visit the Department of Education’s website:

[www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)

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**Every day counts**  
School attendance — responsibilities  
of parents and carers



## Every day counts

**Every day counts...** because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day

**Every day counts...** because going to school means getting a better chance at life

**Every day counts...** because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience

**Every day counts...** because going to school is a legal requirement

## What the law says

Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on ALL school days unless you have a reasonable excuse.

You must not keep your child away from school for minor reasons.

Under the law, schools must monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers any unexplained absences.

## What you can expect from the school

- Monitoring of student attendance
- Letting you know that day if your child is not at school as expected
- Following-up any unexplained absences as soon as practicable after the day of the absence
- Effective teaching strategies to engage your child in learning
- Strategies to help you to encourage your child to go to school

### Support for families

If your child does not want to go to school, or is missing school without you knowing, contact your school immediately for assistance and support.