School Attendance 2014 – Every Day Counts

Daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally.

Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete year 12 or an equivalent have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes and higher incomes across their lives. It is very important that children develop habits of regular attendance from an early age. Click on the following link for more information School Attendance

Every day counts – school attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.
The resources below can support parents to ensure their child attends school each and every day.

**Brochures**

The following brochures have more information about why attendance is important and include some tips on what you can do to ensure your child attends school each day.

**Primary School**

- Parent Brochure - Every Day Counts, Primary School (pdf - 249.75kb)
- Parent Brochure - Every Day Counts, Primary School (docx - 96.28kb)

For a translated versions of the brochure, see: [Every Day Counts](#)

**Parent responsibilities**

Parents are required to ensure their child attends school and to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school, and the principal must record in writing the reason (if any) given by the parent. The principal must be able to determine from the records if the excuse given was reasonable in terms of the parent meeting their legal obligations.

Parents should inform the school of the reason for their child’s absence so that the school can:

- determine if the child’s absence needs to be excused by the principal, in line with school policy and these guidelines
- determine the appropriate follow up to ensure the child’s education and wellbeing is supported
- record if the parent has a reasonable excuse for not meeting their obligation to ensure their child attends school each day.

Where possible, parents should inform the school in advance of upcoming absences.