What is required by law?

Under the Education Act 1994, parents or carers of a school aged child must ensure that their child attends school each day.

This means that a child who is at least 6 years of age as at 1 January in any year must attend school until they reach the age of 17 years.

Students are excused from attending school for the following reasons;

- if there is a health problem, such as if the child is ill or needs medical treatment;
- If the principal has asked you to keep the child home due to an infectious or contagious illness that could be passed on to others; or
- If there is other reasonable cause.

The parent or carer must always tell the school why the child is not at school, even if the absence is only for a short time.

In some cases, the principal of the school may also ask the parents or carers for a medical certificate explaining the child’s absence. If this is the case, parents or carers are required to supply the certificate.

The Department of Education can undertake legal proceedings where there is evidence that a parent or carer is knowingly keeping their child from attending school regularly.

Please note:
Under the Education Act 1994 a ‘parent’ includes guardian or other person having the care or control of a child.

Frequently Asked Questions

I could not get a dental appointment after school hours. Can I take my child out of school to see the dentist?
Yes, as long as you return your child to school at the earliest possible opportunity.

My son wants to stay home on his birthday. Is this okay?
Birthdays are not a good reason for a day off school. Birthdays are often celebrated in class, and there is usually opportunity to celebrate with family after school or at weekends.

I can’t get my child to go to school when there is a relief teacher. What should I do?
If you are having any difficulty getting your child to school, it is very important to discuss it with the regular teacher and/or speak with a member of senior staff.

What sort of appointments are okay for children to have in school hours?
Of course some medical or specialist appointments will occur during school hours. If this is the case, ensure that you tell the teacher, and bring your child back immediately afterwards if possible. Shopping trips are generally not regarded as reasons to miss school.

My daughter won’t attend on sports day. How can I make her go to school?
Always contact the teachers if you are having difficulties so that you can work together to solve the problem.

CONTACT DETAILS
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4 Caveside Road
MOLE CREEK, 7304
Phone: 63 631140   Fax: 63 631141

Every Day
Counts

Tasmania
Explore the possibilities
What are the benefits of regular attendance?

Children who go to school every day do better both in and out of school than those who miss a lot of days. Going to school every day is important:

- Children who go to school every day soon feel that they belong at school. It’s their place, they are happy to be there and to take part in school activities.

- Going to school every day gives children the best chance to learn. They improve their reading, their writing and the other skills they will need throughout life.

- Being with other students every day gives children a chance to build and maintain friendships.

- When children are in school every day, they are safer and less likely to be victims of crime, or to become involved in crime.

- Children who go to school every day are likely to stay at school longer.

What can you do to help?

As parents or carers, you too can make a big difference in helping your child want to attend school every day:

- Tell your child about the enjoyable things you did when you were at school and about the useful things you learned.

- Take an interest in what your child does at school. Find out what your child did in school that day, and help them get ready for the next school day. There may be an assignment or task they have been asked to do.

- Getting children into an everyday routine on school mornings can help. For example, getting them up at the same time, breakfast at the same time, leaving for school at the same time, will help them get to school on time.

- Let the school know when your child will be away and why your child was absent.

Parents and carers, this guide explains

- what you can do to make sure your child goes to school regularly; and
- How you and the school can work together to achieve good attendance for your child.

How can the teacher and school help you?

Your child’s teacher will keep in touch with you about your child’s education through regular parent-teacher meetings and school reports.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU PHONE THE SCHOOL TO REPORT YOUR CHILD’S ABSENTEEISM.**

If the school is concerned about the number of days your child is away, the principal will ask to meet with you to see what you can both do to help.

If you are worried about your child’s attendance, or if you are having problems getting your child to school, you can ask to speak directly with the principal or teacher.

The school may also involve the Learning Service or school social worker who can provide support to individual students with specific needs, and their families.

Who can you contact for help?

As well as your child’s class teacher, the following people can help you with any problems about your child’s attendance:

Mr Nathan Rockliff, Principal
Bernadette Bennett, Social Worker
Penny Burbury, School Psychologist

To make an appointment with any of the above, please telephone 6363 1140