

# Information for parents – When is it OK to miss school?

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**It is important for children to attend school all day, every day.**

## **When is it OK to not go to school?**

An OK reason is one that prevents your child from getting to school. This could include:

- your child is unable to attend because they are sick
- attending cultural or religious observances such as sorry time and funerals
- an unavoidable medical appointment
- an unavoidable natural event such as flood waters or a cyclone

The Principal decides if the reason given for your child's absence is acceptable.

## **It's NOT OK to miss school if your child:**

- is celebrating a birthday
- is going on a family holiday
- is visiting family and friends
- has slept in or had a big weekend
- is looking after other children
- has sport or other recreational activities that have not been approved by the school
- has an appointment such as haircuts and minor check ups

If possible, routine medical and other health appointments should be made either before or after school, or during the school holidays.

## **Do you need to let the school know if your child will be away from school?**

Yes, the school should be advised as soon as possible. You must also let the school know the reason why your child is not at school within three school days of an absence.

## **Why is going to school so important?**

- At school, many concepts are taught in a sequence. Missing school can make it difficult for your child to catch up when they return.
- Research from the Western Australian Telethon Kids Institute shows that students who attend regularly, generally do better at school and in life. Every day at school is important.

## **Why is it important for children to arrive at school on time?**

- Arriving before the siren gives your child a chance to catch up with friends, organise their equipment and mentally adjust to the school day.
- Arriving late disrupts the learning for both your child and the rest of the class.
- Repeated lateness (and absences) can result in anxiety and school refusal.