

Why is it **NOT OK?**

IT'S NOT OK...

because school enables children to build on their knowledge and skills each day, each week and each year.

IT'S NOT OK...

because children can miss out on the basic skills and may experience difficulties later with their learning and limit job opportunities.

IT'S NOT OK...

because school helps children make and keep friends as well as build confidence in areas such as communication, teamwork, organisation and social skills.

IT'S NOT OK...

because going to school is a legal requirement.

IT'S NOT OK...

to be lenient on school attendance because we want all children to reach their potential.

School Attendance is the Responsibility of Parents and Caregivers

Further Information & Support:

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



Government of Western Australia
Department of Education
South Metropolitan

The Department of Education's South Metropolitan Education Regional Office in Beaconsfield has trained staff who will be able to provide relevant information and support.

Contact them on 9336 9563.



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Endeavour Drive, Port Kennedy, WA 6172
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Staying Away is **NEVER OK!**



 Every Child is Special

What the law says:

The law states all children from Pre Primary to Year 12 must attend school or have an alternative educational or workplace arrangement.

Under the law, you are responsible for making sure your child goes to school on ALL school days. You must not keep your child away from school for minor reasons.

Under Western Australian law (School Education Act 1999), parents must send their children to school unless:

- they are too unwell.
- they have an infectious disease.
- the principal is provided with a genuine and acceptable reason.

You must let the school know within three days of returning from an absence why your child has not attended.

Endeavour Schools requires written notification of all absences.

Under the law, schools must:

- monitor attendance of students.
- follow up with parents and caregivers regarding student absences.

What happens when your child misses school without a valid reason?

- Your school will ask you for an explanation.
- Your school will meet with you to discuss ongoing issues.
- A School Attendance Panel may be set up to review the situation and provide advice.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What should I do if my child is unwell?

A: Inform the school and provide a medical certificate if requested. Written explanations must be provided within 3 days of returning from an absence. Endeavour Schools require that **absences longer than 2 days** must be supported by a medical certificate.

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

A: Contact your school as soon as possible and the school will arrange advice/support.

Q: What should I do if we are going on holiday during school time?

A: Holidays during school time can be detrimental to your child's learning. The Principal of your school may not consider this an approved absence. Where at all possible you should try to arrange family holidays during vacation periods.

Q: Can I take my child out of school for social occasions?

A: No. This is not considered reasonable. You should arrange social occasions such as personal shopping trips and birthday celebrations out of school hours.

Q: Will my child be marked absent from school if he/she attends an event organised by the school?

A: Not as long as this is part of the school program. Attendance at these programs is also monitored.

If your child is missing

10

minutes
per day

20

minutes
per day

30

minutes
per day

60

minutes
per day

that equals...

50

minutes
per week

100

minutes
per week

150

minutes
per week

300

minutes
per week

which is...

1.5

WEEKS
per year

2.5

WEEKS
per year

4

WEEKS
per year

8

WEEKS
per year

over 13 years of schooling that is...

almost

0.5
YEARS

almost

1
YEAR

almost

1.5
YEARS

almost

2.5
YEARS

Support and help for families

If your child is reluctant or refuses to go to school or is truanting, there is support and help available.

Contact the school on 9524 5000 or South Metropolitan Education Regional Office on 9336 9563 for information/assistance.