

From the Cluster Principals...

Every School Day COUNTS



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



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



3 because school helps children build confidence in areas such as communication, teamwork, organisation, and social skills.



4 because going to school is a legal requirement and there are fines of up to \$1000.



Education is compulsory for students

from the beginning of the year they turn 5 years 6 months, until the end of the year in which the student reaches the age of 17 years and 6 months, or until the student reaches the age of 18, whichever happens first.

For students in their final two years of compulsory education, this requirement may be met by approved alternative arrangements to full time schooling.

Under the law you are responsible for making sure your child goes to school on ALL days.

You must not keep your child away from school for minor reasons. You are also responsible for having your child at school, on time and prepared for lessons each school day.



Further Information and Support

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

The Department of Education's Regional Education Offices also have staff who can provide information and support. Staff can help families whose children attend public schools across Western Australia.



Contact Numbers

Ashdale Primary School

P: 9406 6999
F: 9406 6990
E: ashdale.ps@education.wa.edu.au



Ashdale Secondary College

P: 9302 7100
F: 9302 7188
E: ashdale.sc@education.wa.edu.au



Landsdale Primary School

P: 9302 4100
F: 9302 4363
E: landsdale.ps@education.wa.edu.au



Madeley Primary School

P: 9302 3611
F: 9302 1250
E: madeley.ps@education.wa.edu.au

North Metropolitan Education
Regional Office. P: 9285 3600

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Attendance at School and the Responsibilities of Parents



Frequently asked QUESTIONS

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

A: Inform the school and provide a medical certificate if requested.

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 support and advice.

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

A: Inform the school prior to the holiday, but you should try to arrange holidays during school holiday periods.

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

A: 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 is doing a TAFEWA, VET or community based program?

A: No, as long as this is part of the school program. Attendance at these programs is also monitored.

Q: Can my child attend another schools' Athletics Carnival or special day?

A: No, not unless they have been asked to attend by the school.

Q: Will the school provide work for my child while on holiday?

A: No, children who are on extended holiday will not be provided with work packages.

It's not OK to be soft on attendance... because we all want children to have the opportunity to be their best.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

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 why your child is not attending. Under the law, schools must:**
- monitor attendance of students
 - follow up with parents and caregivers on student absences

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

- The following steps will be taken until the issue is resolved:
- your school will ask you for an explanation
 - your school will meet with you to discuss ongoing issues and plan a response
 - your case will be referred to North Metropolitan Education Regional Office of the Department of Education
 - a school attendance panel will be set up to review the steps taken and provide advice
 - in some cases, you will be fined

Support and help for families

If your child is reluctant or refuses to go to school, or is missing school without you knowing, there is support and help available.

Contact your school or the North Metropolitan Education Regional Office (see back panel) for information.

