

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE COUNSELLOR?

Student Attendance Counsellors may assist by:

- Working with students in a supportive counselling role.
- Visiting students at home and consulting with parents and/or caregivers.
- Identifying reasons for student non-attendance and making appropriate referrals.
- Monitoring student attendance and reviewing progress as necessary.

There are legal implications for parents and/or caregivers who are unable to demonstrate that they are meeting their responsibilities.

### STUDENT INCLUSION AND WELLBEING TEAM

#### ATTENDANCE COUNSELLOR

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# STUDENT ATTENDANCE

*Is Your Child at  
School?*

Information  
For  
Parents

## **COMPULSORY ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL**

Under the Education Act of South Australia, parents and/or guardians are held responsible for the regular attendance of all children in their care.

All children aged between 6 and 16 years of age must be enrolled and attend school regularly. Students over 16 years of age are over the age of compulsion but the school expects them to regularly attend lessons to ensure they are successful in their studies. Students who are 'wilfully indifferent' to regular attendance will be asked to meet with the Principal.

## **IS REGULAR ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?**

YES. From the first day! If students miss the basic skills in the early years of school, they often experience difficulties later.

It has been shown that irregular attendance in the junior primary and primary years often leads to the development of poor attendance at high school.

6 days absence per term from Junior Primary to end of Year 7 equals 1 year of schooling missed.

Half an hour late each day equals 5 days absence per term.

Ref. J:\COMMON\Policies\Student Attendance Policy.Doc

## **MUST I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?**

YES. All children between the ages of 6 and 16 years are required by law to attend school regularly.

## **MUST I SEND MY CHILD EVERY DAY?**

YES. Unless:

- ◆ the child is too sick to attend
- ◆ the child has an infectious disease like chicken pox, mumps or measles.
- ◆ the child is incapacitated by injury preventing movement around school.
- ◆ the child is accompanying his or her parents and/or caregiver on a family holiday which cannot be arranged in school vacations. This should be arranged with the Principal prior to the absence.
- ◆ the principal is provided with an acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.

**Wherever possible, dental / medical appointments and shopping should be made out of school hours.**

## **MUST I NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF MY CHILD HAS BEEN OR WILL BE AWAY?**

YES. You are encouraged to notify the school of absences as they occur. On return to school, notes explaining the reason for the absence must be supplied and should be written in the child's school diary.

If a child has been away for three days, the school will contact you. The reason for this is to see if the child or you need any support from the school.

If you know of a future absence, please notify the school beforehand and find out if an exemption is required. Parents must request an exemption and fill in an 'Application for Exemption from School' (ED175) if absence is to be more than 5 days.

## **SHOULD I NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF MY CHILD REFUSES TO GO TO SCHOOL?**

YES. You should contact the Principal and seek assistance immediately.

## **WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?**

Student Attendance Counsellors are members of professional teams providing a supportive service to students, parents and/or caregivers and school staff. They aim to assist with the full participation of all students in education.