



TINTINARA AREA SCHOOL

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

TOGETHER ACHIEVE SUCCESS

Is Your Child at School?

Information for Parents

COMPULSORY ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Regular attendance and participation in schooling is an important factor in educational and life success. Students who are regular non-attenders are at risk of alienation from education that can lead to decreased options for future pathways.

Under the Education Act of South Australia, parents and guardians are responsible for the regular attendance of all children in their care between the ages of 6 and 17 years. (Education Act of South Australia, part VI Section 74-81).

The encouragement and maintenance of regular school attendance is also the responsibility of school and preschool staff who work closely with parents and guardians to maximise learning opportunities for children.

Schools and preschools work with parents to encourage attendance and participation to:

- Provide a safe, success orientated and caring environment.
- Provide relevant learning programs for all students.
- Monitor and maintain accurate records of attendance.
- Ensure non-attendance is followed up through early intervention.
- Develop strategies to resolve attendance difficulties.
- Refer to student attendance counsellors and other support service if additional support is needed.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Under the Education Act, parents and guardians are responsible for the regular attendance of all children in their care between the ages of 6 and 17 years.

There are legal implications for those parents who are unable to demonstrate they are meeting this responsibility.

IS REGULAR SCHOOL 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 early school years can lead to poor patterns of attendance in primary then secondary years.

Six days absence per term for Early Years students to the end of Year Seven equals one year of schooling missed. Half an hour late each day equals five days absence per term.

DO I HAVE TO SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?

Yes. All children between the ages of 6 and 17 years are required by law to attend school regularly.

Please note that according to current law, a child under the age of compulsion must not partake in paid work during school hours.

DO I HAVE TO SEND MY CHILD EVERY DAY?

Yes. Unless...

- The child is too sick to leave the house.
- The child has an infectious disease like chicken pox, mumps or measles.
- The child has an injury preventing movement around school.
- The child is going with his or her parents on a family holiday which cannot be arranged in school vacations. This should be arranged with the Principal prior to the absence by applying for a school exemption.
- The Principal is provided with any genuine and acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.
Whenever possible, dental and medical appointments should be made out of school hours.



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MUST I NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF MY CHILD HAS BEEN AWAY?

Yes. On your child's return to school, a note must be supplied to cover the days missed.

If your child has seen a medical practitioner, eg doctor, dentist etc. A note or appointment card from the practitioner will help explain the absence.

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 five days.

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

Yes. You should immediately contact the Principal to seek assistance.

WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

Student Attendance Counsellors are members of a professional team that provides a support service to students and their parents. Their aim is to work with schools and parents/caregivers to provide additional support to students in maintaining regular patterns of school attendance.

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.

Attendance counsellors are available to:

- Assist in the development of students attendance policies
- Provide training and development for school staff
- Provide a counselling service and consulting services
- Liaise with appropriate agencies
- Work with identified students and their parents/caregivers
- Inform parents/caregivers of their legal responsibilities in relation to attendance and possible implications of non-compliance

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

SOCIAL WORK TRUANCY SOCIAL WORK DUTY LINE

Phone: 1300 620 673

Student attendance counsellors assist schools, families and students to manage issues related to unsatisfactory student attendance.