

From the Cluster Principals

# EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS...

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

Every school day counts...because children can miss out on the basic skills and may experience difficulties later with their learning.

Every school day counts...because school helps children build confidence in areas such as communication, teamwork, organization, and social skills.

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



The law says that all children from Year 1 to Year 10 must attend school. Kindy and Pre Primary children are expected to attend regularly if they are enrolled. In Years 11 and 12 all children must attend school or have an approved arrangement with their high school.

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. You are also responsible for having your child at school, **on time** and prepared for lessons each school day.

**It's NOT OK** to be soft on school attendance ... because we want all children 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 the local district education 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 district education office (see back panel) for information.

## 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 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.



## Further information and support

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

The Department of Education's district 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 Secondary College

P - 9302 7100

F - 9302 7188

E - [ashdale.sc@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:ashdale.sc@det.wa.edu.au)

#### Madeley Primary School

P - 9302 3611

F - 9302 1250

E - [madeley.ps@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:madeley.ps@det.wa.edu.au)

#### Landsdale Primary School

P - 9302 4100

F - 9302 4363

E - [landsdale.ps@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:landsdale.ps@det.wa.edu.au)

#### Ashdale Primary School

P - 9406 6999

F - 9406 6990

E - [ashdale.ps@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:ashdale.ps@det.wa.edu.au)

North Metropolitan Education  
Regional Office  
P - 9285 3600

## Ashdale Cluster

# EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS...

Attendance at school-  
Responsibilities of parents



Ashdale  
Secondary College



Madeley  
Primary School

