

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, such as chicken pox.
- The child is incapacitated by injury preventing movement around the school.
- The child is accompanying his or her parents or caregivers on a family holiday which **cannot** be arranged in school vacations. This should be arranged with the Principal prior to the absence, by completing an **application for exemption**.
- The Principal is provided with an acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.

Where possible, family functions, holidays, dentist and medical appointments should be made out of school hours.

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.

Student attendance counsellors may assist by:

- Working with the 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 where necessary.

Alyce McInnes
Student Attendance Counsellor
Port Pirie Regional Office
Telephone (08) 86320600
59 Mary Elie Street
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Booborowie Primary School

'Achieving and Learning for Life'



**STUDENT
ATTENDANCE**

Is regular attendance important?

From the first day at school it is essential that children attend school regularly. Children need to develop good attendance patterns from an early age. If good patterns of attendance are not developed in the first years of schooling, children are more likely to have poor attendance for the rest of their schooling.

If your child is unable to attend school, please ring the school on 88932241 by 9:00a.m.



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

Attendance Information For Parents

What if my child refuses to go to school?

If your child refuses to go to school or you are having difficulties in the morning getting them to school, you should speak to your child's teacher or to me, Jayne Mainprize-Potter (Principal) as soon as you can.

We will be able to work with you to get your child attending school regularly.

Remember—it is better to get help early before you and your child/ren develop poor habits of attendance or late arrival.

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

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

- Lesson Times: 8:55a.m.-3:10p.m.
- A teacher is on duty from 8:30a.m. for students to begin arriving at school.
- Students must leave the school grounds by 3:20p.m.
- If a student is going to be away please ring the school to let us know **before 9:00a.m.**
- The school will contact you if there is any unexplained absence.
- If a student is late arriving to school please report in through the Front Office.
- Parents wishing to collect students for an early departure must also report to the Front Office with an explanation and sign their children out. Should they return the children to school after some time out, the students need to be signed back in to the school at the Front Office.

Must I notify the school if my child has been away?

Yes: You are required to notify the school of absences each day.

A phone call or verbal explanation before 9:00a.m. is necessary.

As a guide, at Primary School we would aim for students to not be absent from school for more than 4 days per year. That equates to one day absent each term.

Our Attendance Policy is not aimed at being invasive of people's lives.

Children under the age of 16 are compelled to attend school.

If your child/ren are not at school we are expected to find out why.

The primary responsibility for meeting this legal requirement rests with the parent/guardian. The responsibility for enforcing school attendance is with the Department for Education and Child Development.

By Parents/Caregivers and school Staff working together, good patterns of attendance can be achieved and the benefits for your child are enormous.

What are the effects of not attending school regularly?

Some of the effects experienced by children who do not attend regularly include:

- Missing out on learning basic concepts.
- Gaps in their knowledge and understanding of skills taught.
- Difficulty developing and maintaining friendships which can result in isolation, bullying or teasing.
- Poor self esteem and confidence.
- Belief that punctuality and attendance are unimportant.
- Do not learn punctuality and organisation.
- Increase the likelihood of leaving school early.