



attendance MATTERS

Did you know?

Research shows that in Australia, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement



GOOD ATTENDANCE FOR SUCCESS
Every Minute
in School Counts



When your child misses just ...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes each day	50 minutes each week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks each year	Nearly ½ a year of learning
20 minutes each day	1 hour and 40 minutes each week	Nearly 2 ½ weeks each year	Nearly 1 year of learning
30 minutes each day	2 ½ hours each week	4 weeks each year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 day each week	8 weeks or nearly 1 term each year	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day



Every day
COUNTS!



When your child misses just ...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means, the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days each year	4 weeks each year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day each week	40 days each year	8 weeks each year	Over 2 ½ years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days each week	80 days each year	16 weeks each year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days each week	120 days each year	24 weeks each year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

School success starts with attendance

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Thomas Acres Public School

EVERY day
counts
attendance matters

**Responsibilities of
Parents & Carers**



Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will mean that your child gets a better chance at life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day:

- ✓ they learn better
- ✓ they make friends
- ✓ they are happier
- ✓ they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?

Parents/Carers have a mandated duty of care by law, to ensure that their children's attendance rate is 85% or higher to maximise their learning potential. You must make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day unless they have a reasonable excuse.

Principals decide if the excuse given for your child's absence is reasonable.

Avoid keeping your child away from school for:

- ✗ birthdays
- ✗ care such as haircuts
- ✗ looking after other children
- ✗ minor check ups
- ✗ shopping
- ✗ sleeping in
- ✗ visiting family or friends

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays if possible.

Whilst it is a last resort, it is important to understand that you may be prosecuted if your child is not attending school regularly.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?

Yes. You must let the school know the reason why your child is absent – your explanation must be provided within 7 days of the first absence.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. However, if travel is necessary, you will need to apply for leave if your child will be absent for more than five (5) days. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and, therefore, count towards your child's total absences for the year.

To apply for leave, you should complete *Application for Extended Leave* and *Certificate of Extended Leave* forms available on our website or from the office. Return the completed forms, along with travel documents such as an e-ticket (for plane travel) or an itinerary (for road travel within Australia), to the office.

Depending on the circumstances, the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete whilst they are absent.

What should I do if my child won't go to school?

You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.



Having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?

- won't get out of bed in the morning
- won't go to bed at night
- can't find their uniform, books, school bag
- slow to eat breakfast
- haven't done their homework
- watching TV or playing video games
- have a test or assignment due
- it's their birthday

A set routine can help!

- set a time to go to bed
- set a time to get out of bed
- have uniform and bag ready the night before
- eat breakfast at the same time each day
- set a time for homework
- speak about school positively
- be firm and seek support if needed

