



## ATTENDANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT - DID YOU KNOW?

**Every day's absence from school is a missed learning opportunity.**

All parents/carers want their children to be successful at school, achieving at the best of their ability, making friends, feeling safe and being safe with others.

Research shows that when children are regularly absent from school

- valuable teaching and learning time is missed
- consistent practice means that skills are not learned or forgotten
- engagement is affected because the student is uncertain of the task
- friendships can change which causes conflict
- anxiety about learning and relationships can also lead to behaviour change
- the learning program for all (students and teacher) is disrupted
- learning as a continuous process is interrupted, resulting in 'patchy' understanding

**Being at school and engaging in learning is like building a brick wall. The foundation needs to be solid. When bricks are missing, the wall isn't as strong. Days absent are the missing bricks which create gaps in knowledge and skills.**

**Health:** Your child/ren need to come to school when they are well enough to attend lessons or have minor ailments that don't stop them from taking part in their learning. If your child is ill because of recurring illnesses, or are infectious, they need stay at home to properly recover. When returning to school, we ask parents to talk to their child's teacher about any information that they need to know and this includes medication if it needs to be given at school. Medication is only given at the front office. A new and / or updated Health Care Plan may also need to be provided by your child's doctor.

**A medical certificate needs to be provided after 3 days absence.**

**Missing school:** Unnecessary absences send a message to students that regular attendance at school isn't important.

Examples for inappropriate absences include taking the day off for:

- a birthday
- visiting relatives
- staying at home to help parents and /or looking after younger brothers and sisters
- to go shopping or have a haircut
- attend a sport event (e.g. the Crows in Adelaide)
- a lesson or curriculum area that your child does not like
- no school uniform clean to wear, your child can wear suitable "home" clothes

If your child says they have a problem with learning, another student, their teacher or you know they are struggling with a school or home issue (e.g. the death of a family member or pet, moving house, other changes), please speak to your child's teacher, or Carolyn (Principal), Damien (Deputy) or myself.

**Coming late means that:**

- important routines and organisation for that day are missed;
- learning time is missed which means that the students is always trying to "catch up";
- students can become embarrassed and become anxious;
- classmates learning is disrupted and put on hold while the teachers explain learning tasks over and over again





**Being half an hour late to school each day from Reception to Year 10 means missing 1 year and 1 ½ terms of school.**

**Early pick up** interrupts student learning, so wherever possible, appointments / commitments after school. Remember to go to the front office and sign your child out, and then go to the class with a pink slip for the teacher's records.

**Missing one day a week of school from Reception to Year 10, means missing 2 years and 1 term of schooling.  
Missing two days, means 4 ½ years.**

**Risdon Park PS strives for all students to reach their potential and regular attendance supports your child to achieve this.**

*Rosie Bannister*

School Counsellor

## **HOW TO CONTACT RISDON PARK PS WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL**

1. Write note in your child's diary or communication book.
2. Ring the school on 8632 2226 and leave a message with one of our friendly front office staff.
3. Text a message on 0409 097 059
4. Send a message through our Skoolbag app

If your child's absence is unexplained and / or your child is away for 3 days or more, then you will be contacted from the school by:

- A phone call
- A coloured slip in your child's diary or communication book

