



# Regular school attendance

Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

## 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?

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse. Illness, doing work experience, competing in a school sporting event or going on a school excursion are reasonable excuses for being absent from school.

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

Avoid keeping your child away from school for:

- birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check ups or care such as hair cuts.

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

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

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

You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling.

## 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 from school – either beforehand, on the day of the absence, or as soon as practicable after your child's return to school.

## 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
- have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- it's their birthday.



### **A set routine can help**

- have a set time to go to bed
- have a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities
- speak about school positively
- be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

### **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.