



AUGUSTA STATE SCHOOL

School Attendance Policy

At Augusta State School we value every lesson, every day for every child.

A parent or legal guardian of a child of compulsory school age is obliged to ensure that their child attends school on every school day for the educational program in which he/she is enrolled. A parent of a young person in the compulsory participation phase is obliged to ensure that the young person is participating full-time in an eligible option.

Any time during which a student is not attending or participating in their educational program is considered an absence and requires explanation. From time to time a student might be absent from school. Parents comply with their compulsory schooling or compulsory participation obligation by providing a satisfactory reason for these absences. A decision is made about whether a reason offered to explain an absence is satisfactory. A reason will be considered satisfactory if it identifies the absence as an allowed absence.

Allowed absences are absences from school for up to 10 days due to illness and absences from compulsory participation allowed under the requirements of the student's eligible option.

Responsibilities

Parents/Carers:

- Ensure their child attends school on every school day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse;
- Ensure their child arrives at school in a timely manner each school day;
- Ensure the school is advised of a student absence, if not beforehand, then within two days of the student's return to school; and
- Initiate or attend meetings to discuss their child's attendance or participation in their educational program.

The School will:

- Keep attendance records and monitor attendance and absenteeism of enrolled students.
- Alert the principal (or delegate) when a student's absence is unexplained or when concerned that the explanation may be unsatisfactory.
- Refer a student to the Guidance Officer if concerned that welfare issues may be impacting on attendance.
- Implement processes to monitor students' attendance at school and to follow up unexplained absences or absences where an unsatisfactory reason is given.

Every day counts! It is vitally important that students attend school every day. It is also important that students arrive at school on-time and ready to learn. Early collection from school also disrupts learning and we encourage families to avoid this as much as possible.

A low level of school attendance is associated with:

- **Poor academic achievements;**
- **Early school leaving;**
- **Leaving school with fewer qualifications;**
- **Subsequent unemployment; and**
- **A lower level of health / life expectancy.**

Absences affect the chances your child has of being successful as an adult. One or two days absent a week in primary school doesn't seem much but...

Missing...	Equals ...	Which is ...	Over 13 years of schooling you child is missing...	If this happens you child may only reach ...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of schooling	Year 11 standard
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Nearly 2.5 years of schooling	Year 10 standard
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Nearly 5 years of schooling	Year 7 standard
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of schooling	Year 4 standard