Student absence fits into the following categories:

- 1 Illness/injury
- Your child is absent from school without your knowledge
- 3 School Refusal
 Your child does not want to attend
 school, even though you have tried
- Your child does not attend school with your permission. For example, family holidays, baby-sitting, helping parents at home, working in the family business.



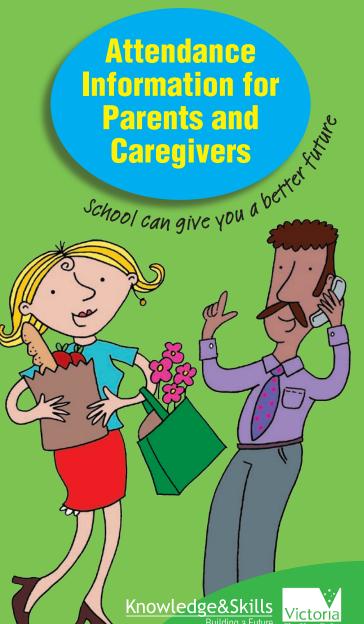
IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY

TO BE AWAY



www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/wellbeing/welfare/attend.htm







What is my responsibility as a parent/caregiver?

Make sure your child:

- → attends school on ALL school days
- is on time every day

Make sure you:

- provide the school with an explanation if your child is away
- contact the school if your child does not want to go to school
- arrange doctor and dentist appointments out of school hours
- arrange personal shopping trips with your son/daughter or birthday celebrations out of school hours
- do not allow your child to stay at home for minor reasons.

Is regular attendance at school important?

- → Yes from the first day. If your child misses the basic skills in primary school they can experience difficulties with their learning
- → Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is not disrupted. Regular learning provides building blocks for the future
- → Schools help children to develop important social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills and a healthy self-esteem.

What can I expect from the school?

- → Monitoring of student attendance and review progress on a weekly basis
- → Strategies to help you as a parent encourage your child to go to school.

What help can I get if my child refuses to go to school or is truanting?

The school can offer a range of support options:

- teacher working with the student in a supportive, counselling role
- school student welfare co-ordinator working with the student
- provide a mentor for your child
- home visits to identify the problem and help work it through with parents
- identify reasons why your child doesn't want to go to school
- strategies to help you encourage your child to go to school
- develop an incentive program to encourage your child to attend school
- ink with community agencies.

Must I send my child to school every day?

Yes, unless:

- your child is too sick or injured to go to school
- your child has an infectious disease
- the principal is provided with any other genuine and acceptable reason for absence.

Will my child be marked absent if they are doing a TAFE, VET or community program?

→ No – as long as it is part of the school program.

What if my child is involved in sport?

→ No – as long as it is part of the school program.

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

→ Yes – for the wellbeing of your child,

Department of Education & Training has an attendance policy and teachers and schools are required to follow up student absences.

