

Compulsory Enrolment and Attendance at School

All children aged between 6 and 16 years of age must be enrolled and attend school regularly.

Children from the age of 5 are also expected to attend school regularly once they are enrolled.

Under the Education Act of South Australia, Parents and/or Care-givers are held responsible for the regular attendance of all children in their care.

Why is regular attendance important?

Children and students who have poor patterns of attendance are at risk of not achieving their educational, social or psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations. These learners may:

- Be socially isolated
- Place themselves at risk of harm during times of absence
- Have gaps in their knowledge and understanding of basic concepts
- Feel insecure in the preschool or school environments
- Be the victims of bullying and harassment
- Be more likely to leave school early
- Be more likely to be involved in socially unacceptable and/or illegal activities
- Be over-represented in the juvenile justice system

DID YOU KNOW?

- If a child is absent **10 days of every term**, they will miss **8 weeks** of schooling in one year—this is almost 1/4 of the school year.
- Research shows that one day missed takes four days of effort to catch up.

Infectious Diseases

If your child has been diagnosed as having an infectious disease, please notify the staff at the front office who will be able to advise you on the period of time your child must be absent from school. This will also let us decide if we need to notify other parents.

Our School Day.....

8.35 am	Limited yard duty
8.45 am	School starts
11.05 am	RECESS
11.30 am	Second lesson block begins
1.00 pm	LUNCH play
1.30 pm	Third lesson block begins
3.00 pm	Dismissal

If you have any further questions or seek any other information, please contact the Leadership Team.



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Woodville Gardens
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STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Did you know?

- Success in learning is strongly linked to regular attendance and appropriate participation in educational programs.
- It is crucial that children and students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age, even from the time they are enrolled in a preschool setting.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Does my child have to attend school every day?

YES

Unless

You have provided the school with an acceptable reason preventing your child's attendance, such as:

- Your child is too sick to attend (please notify the school of the day of absence).
- Your child has an infection disease (eg chicken pox, mumps or measles, slap cheek or impetigo - school sore virus).
- Your child is being treated for head lice (but needs to return to school once treatment has been administered).
- Your child is incapacitated by injury that prevents movement around the school.
- Your child is accompanying you on a family holiday that cannot be arranged in school vacation times (The Principal can give approval for up to four weeks. Please fill in the Student Exemption from School form which is available from the front office).

**If possible,
Dental and Medical appointments
should be made out of school hours.**

What do I do if my child is absent, late or needs to leave early?

- Students are expected to be in classrooms ready to start lessons at 8.40am.
- If you know your child is going to be absent from school please contact the school by 9.30am.
- When your child returns to school, a note must be supplied to cover absences. This should be written in the child's communication book or diary. Patterns of unexplained absences will be referred to the Leadership Team.
- If a child needs to leave school before 3.00pm, parents/caregivers need to go to the front office and record the time and reason for the early departure. They need to then hand the slip to the child's teacher before leaving the school grounds.
- Whenever your child is absent from school for 3 or more consecutive unexplained days, school staff will contact you by telephone to seek an explanation.
- You may be required to supply a doctor's certificate for prolonged illness.

Did you know?

Under the law, Centrelink has access to School Attendance records and can reclaim monies paid if a student is receiving an allowance and has more than **5 unexplained absences per term.**

What do I do if my child refuses to go to school?

You should contact the Leadership Team and seek assistance immediately. After discussion with you, it may be decided to call a Department of Education and Children's Services (DECD) Student Attendance Counsellor to help.

What is the role of the DECD Student Attendance Counsellor?

DECS Student Attendance Counsellors are members of professional teams providing a supportive service to students, parents / caregivers and school staff.

They aim to assist with the full participation of all students in education.

They may assist by:

- Working with students in a supportive counselling role.
- Visiting students at home and consulting with parents / caregivers.
- Identifying reasons for student non-attendance and making appropriate referrals.
- Monitoring student attendance and reviewing progress as necessary.

Did you know?

The South Australian Government has identified improved attendance as a priority for all DECS schools.