



# STUDENT ATTENDANCE

## COMPULSORY ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Under the Education Act of South Australia parents/caregivers are held responsible for the regular attendance of students of all children in their care.

All children between the ages of 6 and 17 must be enrolled and attend school regularly.

## ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS NOT UNDER COMPULSION WHO ARE ENROLLED

Students 17 and over who are enrolled are expected to attend for the entire program for which they are enrolled.

## BENEFITS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF REGULAR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- By encouraging regular attendance you will know you have positively influenced your child's education.
- You will know that your child is safe at school and not at risk elsewhere.
- You will know that your child is learning more appropriate things than if they were truanting.
- Regular attendance by your child will ensure that you have fewer contacts with government agencies.
- You have peace of mind knowing children who attend school regularly are less likely to break the law.
- You are contributing to the likelihood of your child being more socially developed.
- Your child is more likely to finish Year 12 and have broader opportunities.
- You will avoid a fine and legal action due to your child's poor attendance at school, if they are under 17.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT STUART HIGH SCHOOL

Normal school hours are between 8:40am and 2pm on Monday, and 8:40am and 3:20pm Tuesday to Friday.

Teachers are on duty from 8:25am.

If a student is going to be away, please ring the school to let us know, and send a written note in the diary when the student returns.

If a student arrives late to school, the student must sign in at the Front Office, and should have a note for the Front Office in their diary. If a student has to leave early, or go to an appointment during the day, they require a note in their diary from parents/caregivers indicating the reason for their departure. Students need to sign out of school in the Front Office. They need to sign back in when they return to school.

Your child's care group teacher or other staff will contact you if unexplained absences occur regularly.

## MUST I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

Yes, unless

- Your child is too sick to attend.
- Your child has an infectious disease like chicken pox, mumps, measles, etc
- Your child is incapacitated by injury which prevents movement around the school.
- Your child is accompanying parents or caregivers on a holiday that cannot be arranged in school holiday time. In this case, an exemption form needs to be filled in and given to the Principal. The forms are available from the Front Office.

## BUT YOU MUST STILL LET THE SCHOOL KNOW.

### Should I notify the school if my child refuses to go to school?

Yes. You should contact the school and seek assistance immediately.

The school counsellor and DECD attendance counsellors are members of a professional team providing a support service to students and parents/caregivers. They aim to assist with the full participation of all students in education.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT ATTENDANCE

- Missing a day a week from reception to Year 10 means missing two years and one term of schooling.
- There is a direct relationship between attendance and achievement.
- Being half an hour late each day from Reception to Year 10 equals missing one year and one-and-a-half terms of schooling.
- Patterns of attending are set up in the early years of schooling.
- Being absent five days a term from Reception to Year 10 adds up to more than one year of missed schooling.
- Girls are absent more than boys.
- Students who are often absent from school are likely to earn less than their peers as adults.

We do not want these facts to apply to students at Stuart High School.