

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDENT ABSENTEEISM and LATENESS

WHAT ARE THE STARTING TIMES AT TANUNDA PRIMARY SCHOOL?

Students are expected to arrive between 8:25 and 8:50am. Classes commence at 8:50 and students are deemed to be late if they arrive after the 8.50am siren.

CAN MY CHILD ARRIVE BEFORE 8:25am?

Whilst we do not wish to curb children's enthusiasm about attending school, yard supervision commences at 8:25am. If you need your child cared for prior to 8.25am you can make arrangements with various local childcare providers who offer before school care including the BOSH Service which services our school.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

Students must attend school on every school day. This is necessary if they are to cover all the work set out in the school program for the year. Schools are able to seek support from Attendance Counsellors to follow up 'excessive' absences and 'persistent' lateness.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS ILL?

Students who are ill obviously need to be home and probably in bed, they may even need to visit the doctor. Remember however, each day a child misses school they miss a part of their learning program. Parents/caregivers must contact the school and give a reason for the child's absence preferably on the morning of the absence. This should be followed up with a written note when the child returns to school.

WHAT IF MY CHILD ARRIVES LATE IN THE MORNING?

If your child arrives before 8.50am they can go straight to the classroom. Lateness is viewed as a serious matter and is recorded in the Roll Book by the teacher - including the arrival time. If your child arrives after 8.50am, they must report to the Front Office and collect a "Late Slip" to take to the class teacher. Being late or away from school adds up from Reception through to Year 10.

Look at these statistics:

- *5 days away a term adds up to more than 1 year of schooling missed. That's 220 days over this period of schooling.*
- *1 day a week away adds up to 2 years and 1 term or 451 days over this period.*
- *Half an hour late per day also equals 1 year and 1.5terms away from school.*

WHAT IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL, WILL I BE INFORMED?

Yes and if an accident or illness is potentially worrying or serious, this will be done as soon as possible. For this reason it is critical that the school is provided with up-to-date and reliable contact numbers for home and work and names and numbers for emergency contact if the parent/caregiver is not able to be contacted.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS AN APPOINTMENT (Medical, Dental or other important appointment)?

Where possible appointments outside of school hours are preferable. If the appointment is within school hours, a written note from the parent/caregiver should be given to the teacher advising of the appointment.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT ATTENDING SCHOOL?

In South Australia it is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 16 to attend school. Parents or guardians are responsible for making sure the child attends. Parents or guardians can be taken to court and fined if they persistently and knowingly do not send a child to school.