

Frequently asked questions

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

Yes – Parents must let the school know the reason for the absence, if not beforehand, then within two days of their child's return to school.

Can I take my child out of school for family or social occasions?

No – You should arrange leisure activities, visits to family and friends and shopping trips outside of school hours.

Does the occasional day away from school really affect my child's education?

Yes – Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

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

Contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

For further information and support

Talk with your school about your child's attendance or any support you may need.

Visit the Department of Education, Training and Employment's website:

www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts

Every day counts

School attendance – responsibilities of parents and caregivers



Every day counts

Every day counts... because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day

Every day counts... because going to school means getting a better chance at life

Every day counts... because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience

Every day counts... because going to school is a legal requirement

What the law says

Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on ALL school days unless you have a reasonable excuse.

You must not keep your child away from school for minor reasons.

Under the law, schools must monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers any unexplained absences.

What you can expect from the school

- Monitoring of student attendance
- Letting you know if your child is not at school
- Following-up any unexplained absences as soon as practicable, but within three days of any unexplained absence
- Effective teaching strategies to engage your child in learning
- Strategies to help you to encourage your child to go to school

Support for families

If your child does not want to go to school, or is missing school without you knowing, contact your school immediately for assistance and support.