



IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!

How many days of school has your child missed this semester?

0-6 days

This is *within normal range*. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.

7-10 days

This attendance rate is below average. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of schooling between prep and Year 10.

11-20 days

This is a poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate days could miss out on up to two years of schooling between prep and Year 10.

20+ days

This is a very poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss over two and a half years of schooling between prep and Year 10



It's Not Okay To Be Away

In the 'good old days' it used to be hard to get a day off school. Now it seems to be easy, maybe too easy?

The wider school community, parents and students need to fully understand the impact of missing too many school days.

If a student has a day off, once a fortnight, this would add up to 20 days in a school year.

20 days is the same as missing **a tenth** of a school year.

If your child missed 20 days each year up to year 10, this would equal to missing **a year of schooling**.

A key message that needs to be embraced by schools, parents, and the wider community is that **"It's Not OK to be Away"**. The 'fallout' of poor attendance is very real. These students will be at risk of not achieving their potential and therefore limit their life choices. Also, other real consequences are:

- Social isolation
- Will have gaps in their learning of knowledge and basic concepts
- May feel insecure in the school environment
- More likely to leave school early
- Be over-represented in the juvenile justice system
- Be the victims of bullying and harassment.

When you consider all the above, schools, parents and the wider community need to work in partnership with each other to ensure students enjoy school success and as a consequence more enriching life choices.

Some Benefits of Regular School Attendance

For Students:

- The development of skills and attitudes such as self-discipline, punctuality, and being organised will optimise life choices.
- Regular attendance leads to making friends and learning how to maintain relationships over a length of time.
- Regular attendance leads to learning social skills necessary to live and work with other.
- It's safer at school than on the street.
- The more students attend, the more they will learn and the more they will like school.

For the Community:

- Young people are the next generation of community leaders and community citizens.
- Community agencies can work in partnership with schools towards the shared goal of developing future community leaders and citizens.
- Young people who attend school regularly are more likely to be safe.
- Young people who attend school regularly are less likely to be involved in crime.
- The more students attend, the more they learn and the more likely they are to make a positive contribution to society.