



The Belltower

Hurstville Public School Newsletter



Email: hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Phone: 9587 3963

ISSUE 12 2017
Term 3 Week 4
Friday 11 August



Education & Communities

Calendar of Upcoming Events

| TERM 2 | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Monday 14 August | ICAS Maths Competition for Years 2 - 6 |
| Tuesday 15 August | Zone Athletics Half day |
| Wednesday 16 August | Number Crunches semi final – Year 6 Peakhurst PS |
| Wednesday 16 August | ACARA Test Yr3 |
| Thursday 17 August | ACARA Test Yr5 |
| Friday 18 August | PSSA Final |
| Monday 21 August | Band Camp |
| Tuesday 22 August | Band Camp Zone Athletics Full Day |
| Wednesday 23 August | Yr2 History Excursion: Hurstville Museum and Gallery |
| Thursday 24 August | Yr2 History Excursion: Hurstville Museum and Gallery |
| Friday 25 August | No PSSA |

Principal's Message

Education Week Open Day – Tuesday 1st August

I would like to extend my thanks to all members of our school community who took the time to join us and make Education Week Open Day 2017 a very special day. It was fabulous to see so many people visiting the school site and taking the opportunity to share in some of the amazing things our students are achieving. Of particular importance was taking the opportunity to acknowledge the role our grandparent play in the support of our students and their education. It was heartening to see so many grandparents sharing this time with their grandchildren. I would like to thank our incredible, dedicated staff for their work in preparation for the day and to the Hurstville P&C members who selflessly gave of their time to assist with the Morning Tea and ensure all of our visitors were well looked after. All in all, Open Day was a wonderful day for our school community.



St George Performing Arts Festival Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th August

During the week I had the opportunity to witness our students taking part in the St George Performing Arts Festival. This annual festival is made up of many performances from a large number of the schools in the St George Area and provides a different performance on each of the three nights that the festival is held. Our dance groups performed at the Tuesday concerts and were outstanding. The time they had spent on preparation for the festival was clearly evident. Our choir took part in the Thursday concerts and again demonstrated the significant level of preparation they had put into their fine performances. Two of our Stage 3 students, Kaden and Serena, compared the Thursday performances and were masterful in their delivery of their finely tuned dialogue. Both were completely at ease in this high profile role. I would like to congratulate all of our students on their fabulous contribution to the St George Performing Arts Festival this year.

Transforming Schools - Dr Miranda Jefferson

A team of our staff members will begin a learning journey in the coming week with Dr Miranda Jefferson. Dr Jefferson works with many schools across all education sectors in the area of 21st Century Learning, specifically a focus on how the 4Cs (Collaboration, Communication, Critical thinking & Creativity) are embedded into all aspects of each school's life and operation. In conjunction with her research partner, Dr Michael Anderson, Dr Jefferson will work with our team to not only reflect on the journey to date with 21st Century learning but to also critically analyse what will now be needed to ensure that all that has been achieved in the past two and a half years will sustain into the future. We are very much looking forward to beginning this work with Dr Jefferson.

Respectful Communication in the playground

I would like to remind all members of our school community to reflect for a moment on our shared expectations. I know that it is very important to each and every one of us to provide clear and positive role modelling for our students. Positive role modelling has such a significant impact on the lives of children that it is the responsibility we all have to get it right. Unfortunately, over the past two weeks, I have had a number of parents and community members contact me regarding a number of heated and unhelpful exchanges that have taken place between parents and community members either in the playground or on the school boundaries. I urge all community members to really consider the impact of their actions before any dialogue is exchanged that is either heated or motivated by anger or misunderstanding. Our children look to us for these cues, both verbal and non-verbal, and we as a school community need to focus on consistently setting the right positive role modelling. Please take the opportunity to consider the implications of forgetting about the importance of respectful communication and modelled tolerance.

Mr Mark Steed – Principal

From the Leadership Team

Following Road Rules

Recently we have had parents contact us with concerns about driver behaviour, particularly in Orange Lane. Please use the designated 'kiss and drop' area when dropping off or picking up your child/children. Please drive slowly around these areas during School Zone times. When you come to the end of Orange Lane, remember it is right turn only. No left turns are to be made at the end of Orange Lane during the hours of 8.30am-9.30am and 2.30pm-3.30pm, as this is putting our students in an extremely unsafe situation.



Please follow the road rules around our school for the safety of our students. I know parents are busy, juggling both family and work commitments. However, taking the time to be safe and follow the rules is so important, particularly in our local area where there are many students who have not yet developed the awareness needed to keep themselves safe. Keeping them safe is our collective responsibility. Taking a few extra minutes to follow the rules could save the life of one of our students.

Keeping an eye on Screen Time

As parents in the 21st Century, many of us are concerned about our children's safety online and the amount of screen time our children experience. The Australian Government has developed a useful and practical website with information for parents about protecting children online.

The website provides guidance for using safety settings on your family's web-connected devices, tips for choosing movies and games and strategies for keeping young people safe online. It is well worth exploring as a family.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>

One section of the website outlines ways you can help your child maintain a healthy balance between online and offline activities, including the following:

1. Talk to your kids
2. Encourage social activities
3. Set screen time limits
4. Create a screen time plan
5. Filter their access
6. Use devices in open or visible locations in the house
7. Seek help if you have concerns.


ICAS Mathematics

Next Monday, many of our students will sit for the Mathematics ICAS test. The test will be administered between 11.30am and 1.00pm.

Students participating need to bring a lead pencil, eraser and a ruler marked in millimetres (mm). Good luck to our students sitting for the test.

Gymnastics for Year 5 will be postponed on Monday due to the ICAS test and will take place during Week 1 of Term 4 on Thursday 12 October 2017

Miss Danielle Scott - Deputy Principal



Office of the Children's
eSafety Commissioner

Keeping an eye on screen time

Are your kids constantly glued to a screen? Where do you draw the line to keep screen time in check? This quick guide can help parents manage screen time.

What is screen time?

Screen time is the amount of time spent watching a screen or electronic media for entertainment. It includes:

- Watching TV
- Watching DVDs & other online shows
- Using computers or other devices to access online entertainment
- Playing games on consoles, computers and mobile phones
- Texting

Screen time does not include time spent on educational activities, such as for school work.

What is the right amount of screen time?

We know parents are time-poor, dealing with work and other life pressures, so screen time can be an easy alternative for keeping kids occupied.
But what is recommended?

Health experts suggest these screen time limits:

| Ages | Screen time |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Ages 0-2 | No Screen time |
| Ages 2-5 | Less than 1 hour per day |
| Ages 5-17 | Less than 2 hours per day |

Source: Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines

Is too much screen time a risk?

It is important that parents help their children enjoy a mix of entertainment and social activities.
Excessive screen time may lead to problems such as:

- Increased risk of obesity
- Sleep difficulties
- Poor performance at school

But not all screen time is bad

Screens are a part of family life and when used in moderation can offer **positive benefits**, like:

- Enhancing learning experiences
- Facilitating social interaction
- Improving motor skills, coordination, literacy and numeracy

[esafety.gov.au/iparent](https://www.esafety.gov.au/iparent)

Attendance

Schools are legally responsible for maintaining accurate records of student attendance. Every day teachers mark their class rolls and record absences, both whole day and partial (including late arrival) electronically. The absences are recorded as explained or unexplained and justified or unjustified, according to the reason provided by the parent or caregiver.

Please read the information attached at the end of this Belltower regarding compulsory school attendance.

We understand that many families in our school community have relatives who live overseas, and the difficulty with visiting them. The Department of Education advises that travel, where possible, is planned during school holidays. At Hurstville Public School, there are some students whose attendance is of concern (less than 85% attendance) due to the amount of time away from school overseas.

Please note:

**Education**
Public Schools

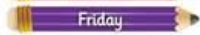


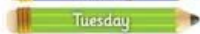
EVERY DAY COUNTS....

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

| When your child misses just... | that equals... | which is... | and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is... | This means that the best your child can achieve is... |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 1 day each fortnight | 20 days per year | 4 weeks per year | Nearly 1 ½ a years of school | Equal to finishing Year 11 |
| 1 day a week | 40 days per year | 8 weeks per year | Over 2 ½ years of school | Equal to finishing Year 10 |
| 2 days a week | 80 days per year | 16 weeks per year | Over 5 years of learning | Equal to finishing Year 7 |
| 3 days a week | 120 days per year | 24 weeks per year | Nearly 8 years of learning | Equal to finishing Year 4 |

Give your child every chance to succeed...

Every day counts!



Kindergarten 2018

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is turning 5 before 31st July 2018, and live within the school boundary area, please complete an enrolment form at the office as soon as possible, if the child is to start in 2018. Please carefully read our school enrolment policy, which is on our website, for further information regarding the requirements for enrolling students at Hurstville Public School.

<http://www.hurstville-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/enrolment>

Below are the dates in Term 4 when our Orientation and Transition Program is scheduled to run:

- **Orientation :** Thursday 19th October
- **Transition Visit 1 :** Thursday 26th October
- **Transition Visit 2 :** Thursday 2nd November
- **Transition Visit 3 :** Thursday 9th November

Mrs Jenny Cooper – Relieving Deputy Principal

Curriculum Overviews

As part of our commitment to providing you with more information about your child's learning, class teachers have developed a curriculum overview for each grade which outlines the general syllabus content to be covered each term.

This information has been added to the school website under the school years tab for each grade. We hope that this information helps clarify the types of knowledge and skills that your child will be learning this term. The reports at the end of the year will reflect the information that is in the overview.

The overview refers to the general content of the grade / stage and class teachers will differentiate their instruction to ensure that the children who are working below the stage level will receive appropriate support, and students who are working beyond the general content will be extended.

If you have any questions regarding the information in the overview, please feel free to ask your child's teacher, or alternatively, you are most welcome to discuss it with me.

Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Relieving Deputy Principal

In The Classroom

Early Stage 1-Kindergarten

On Tuesday 1st August, Kindergarten students welcomed their parents, grandparents and special friends into their classrooms. Students enjoyed completing activities with their visitors. Kindergarten students finished the morning with a teddy bears' picnic in Area 1. Students and teachers had a very special morning. Well done to all our Kindergarten students for their respectful, responsible behaviour.



Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

Stage 1 Year 1

1M have been learning about how plants grow as part of our Science unit “What’s Alive”. For their Project Based Learning, they have planted some herbs and vegetables in a section of the school garden, next to the gym block.

1M have enjoyed looking after their plants by regularly watering them. They are also keeping a diary to record their observations as the herbs grow. Through this hands on learning, 1M students have been able to understand the conditions plants need to grow and thrive.



Ms Mytilinios – 1M Classroom Teacher

Year 2

It was wonderful to see so many Year 2 parents/carers and grandparents attend the Hurstville PS Open Day, during Education Week. The children were thrilled to share their learning and to work with you on a variety of activities in their classrooms. Thank you.



With a busy Term 4 planned for our Year 2 students, they are currently investigating *Light and Sound* as part of their Science Inquiry. Later this term they will attend an incursion to enhance their knowledge and skills in Science and Technology. The Year 2 students are also looking forward to their excursion to the Hurstville Museum. This will fit in perfectly with their historical inquiry of *Families Past and Present*. Look out for the Year 2, Term 3 Curriculum Overview which can be accessed on the school website.



Mrs Tina Cowley
Assistant Principal

Stage 2 **Years 3 & 4**

Year 4 Excursion

Year 4 classes enjoyed a glorious day at the Rocks learning about Australia's history.



Year 4 Teachers

Year 4 Robotics

On Monday 7th August, 2017, 4K was fortunate enough to participate in an exciting robotics lesson with Ms Daniels and Mrs Kakakios. In this lesson, we investigated the force of pulling and constructed a robot that could move and pull a wagon behind it.

We used the app WeDo 2.0 to follow a set of 33 intricate steps that allowed us to construct our robot. We then had to connect the smart hub of our robot to the iPad and coded a unique sequence that allowed our robot to move. We were able to make it go forward, backward, turn, add sound effects and add flashing lights.

We had an amazing time doing robotics and can't wait to do it again!



By 4K & Mrs Kakakios

Education Week

Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who came to make Open Day so special. 4P students enjoyed working on collaborative activities with our parents and grandparents. We had so much fun and we hope you did too.





Mrs Proctor and 4P

Stage 3 **Years 5 & 6**

Changes to Selective High School Assessment for Year 5 Students

We have made the decision to move the Year 5 school based Selective High School assessments from week 8 of this term to week 9 (11th-15th September).

We have a very busy school calendar in week 8 with numerous school and evening extra-curricular activities involving a large number of our Year 5 students. We do not want any student to be disadvantaged as a result of participation in these school events.

These events include Book Week activities, Bandtastic Performance as well as the Dance Sport evening performance at the State Sports Centre.

GOT GAME Gymnastics – Cancelled next Monday

Because of the Mathematics ICAS test, which participating students must all sit for at the same time, our GOT Game sessions for next Monday 14 August have been postponed. These sessions will take place during Week 1 of Term 4 on Thursday 12 October 2017

Robotics

5H has begun Robotics. Every student loves their sessions in the Connected Classroom where they work collaboratively to build, program and test robots. So far, the students have built Drag and Pull, and Drop and Rescue robots. Next, they will be either revisiting these robots to improve their capabilities or moving onto more complex robot projects that require greater critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



Ms Hudson – 5H Class Teacher

Support Unit

Open Day

A huge thank you to those parents and grandparents who attended Open Day last Tuesday. It was so nice to have you in our classrooms and the students also enjoyed having you there.

It was also great to have some parents come for Breakfast Club! Just a reminder, Breakfast Club is on every Thursday morning from 8.40am for the students. A variety of toast, cereal and pancakes are always on offer.



Community Access

For those students in Green Class, Community Access will be starting on Thursday 10th August. Students are required to bring money (no more than \$10) and a shopping list from home with 2 items they will need to purchase from Coles.



Book Character Parade

On Wednesday 30th August, students will be participating in a Book Character Parade as part of Book Week celebrations. All students are encouraged to come dressed as a character from a book.

The Book Character Parade will commence at 9.30 under the COLA in Area 5. If it is wet weather, it will be in the hall commencing at 9.20. All parents and grandparents are invited to attend. We hope to see you there!



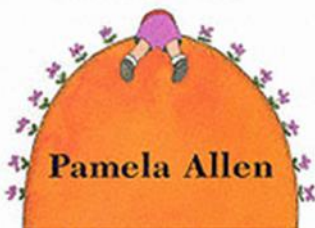
From the Library

What's New In the Library?

The Premier's Reading Challenge for 2017 will close for student entries on **Friday 25th August**. Well done to all students who have already completed the challenge! There are a few students to finish and there is still time to get those last books read and entered before the close date. Unfortunately, late entries will not be able to be processed so please ensure student entries are completed on time.

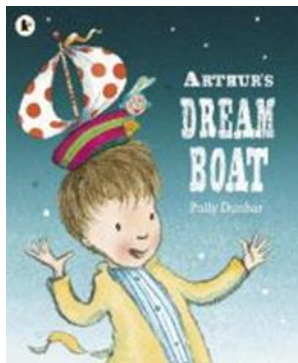
Mr Philpott thinks you should read this book from the K-2 Challenge:

***Can You Keep
a Secret?***



The King has lost his crown. He can't find it anywhere. Follow him through this picture book and see how silly he's been.

Ms Wadley thinks you should read this book from the 3-4 challenge:



Arthur has an amazing dream about a pink and green boat with a striped mast. He can't wait to tell his family about it. But when he tries, no one (not even the dog) is interested in listening. They don't even notice when the very same boat gradually appears on his head, growing larger and larger by the minute.

Mr Michael Philpott and Miss Chaan Wadley – Teacher/Librarians

Values In Action Awards

The students listed below will receive their **medal** on Monday 14th August 2017 at the whole school morning assembly. Congratulations! Parents are most welcome to see their child receive their award.

Abedah Z. 3G Rebecca Z. 4R Jonathan Z. 4P Alena L. 5H

The students listed below will receive their **GOLD** award on Monday 14th August, 2017 at the whole school morning assembly. Congratulations! Parents are most welcome to see their child receive their award.

Agnes L. 2A

Elias T. 3D

Benson C. 4K

Emilia G. 2S

Grace K. 3D

Elyse T. 4M

Mary H. 5K

Our award system is as follows:

5 Values in Action Awards (mixture) = 1 Bronze Award

5 Bronze Awards = 1 Silver Award

2 Silver Awards = 1 Gold Award

2 Gold Awards = Medal

Please keep awards in a safe place so that students can trade them in when they have achieved the next level of award.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun – Assistant Principal

Sport



Students in Stage 2 & 3, (Years 3, 4, 5 who do not participate in PSSA sport on Friday mornings, will be attending AFL training clinics over the next four weeks.

For those students in our summer PSSA AFL teams, this should help to prepare them for the upcoming competition, which starts up again in Week 8.

Ms Rhonda Rourke – AFL Coach

Congratulations to Aaryan who gained selection on Wednesday 10th of August in the Botany Bay PSSA Cricket squad and will be trialing for selection in the Sydney East Cricket team. We wish him the best of luck.

Band

We hope our students who are attending Band Camp on 21st and 22nd August have a wonderful time and enjoy being part of a large ensemble with students from other schools. For all students attending, please make sure all paperwork has been completed and handed to Mrs King as soon as possible. For all parents of students attending Band Camp, please remember to pick your child up from Stanwell Tops on the Tuesday evening following the concert.

Thank you to Mrs King who will be supervising our students at Band Camp. Also thank you to Mrs Ingram who will attend the concert on Tuesday evening.

Miss Danielle Scott – Deputy Principal

St George Performing Arts Festival



This week, many boys and girls from Hurstville Public School performed at the St George Performing Arts Festival which was held at Marana Auditorium in Hurstville. The students had a fabulous time showing off their amazing singing voices and dancing skills. Well done, students of Hurstville Public School! Serena and Kaden were amazing as comperes at SPAF.

A huge thank you and congratulations to the dedicated teachers who have spent many hours supporting these students to be the best performers in singing and in dancing that they can be.

Thank you to:

- Mrs Cook and Mrs Proctor for supervising Stage 2 and 3 choir
- Miss Bronsens for supervising Year 6 Girls Dance
- Miss Zhai and Miss Liu for supervising Chinese Kung Fu Dance
- Mrs Southall for supervising Silver Boys Dance

Stage 2 and 3 choir



Chinese Kung Fu Dance Group



Silver Boys Dance Group



Senior Girls Dance



Comperes Serena and Kaden



21st Century Learning Corner 2017!

Thank you to all the students who submitted a 4C poster design as part of our logo competition. We will be reviewing entries and will let you know who the successful designer is very soon! Watch this space.

Well done everyone for your great entries.

Ms Mortimer

From the Office

新生注冊入學時間
每天上午 9:30 至下午 2:30 之間

“New Enrolments” will be taken
between 9.30 am - 2.30 pm



OPEN MORNING

Thursday, 31 August 2017

School Hall

9.15am for
9.30am start – 11.30am

Address by Principal and performances by students 9.30am – 10.30am
Tours of the school 10.30am – 11.30am

- **Outstanding academic achievement**
- **Broad development of each child**

Debating
Leadership

Music
Technology

Drama
Duke of Edinburgh

Creativity
Sport

- ♦ **RESILIENT**
- ♦ **CONNECTED**
- ♦ **INNOVATIVE**

Please note – there is no parking in the school grounds

Website: www.northsydgi-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Booking RSVP by: Monday 28 August 2017. Email: northsydgi-h.schools@det.nsw.edu.au





NORTH SYDNEY BOYS
HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN DAY

TUESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2017
9:15 AM - 12:00 PM



The North Sydney Boys community invites you to Open Day.

Join us to discover how we deliver excellence and innovation in boys' education. Our students, parents and teachers look forward to welcoming you to the school and sharing with you what makes North Sydney Boys so unique.

School Tours: 9:15am; 9:30am; 9:45am; and 11:15am

Principal's Address and student presentations: 10:45am



CORNER OF FALCON AND
MILLER STREETS, CROWS
NEST

PHONE: 9955 4748

PARKING IN THE
SURROUNDING STREETS IS
LIMITED TO 2 HOURS. THE
SCHOOL IS BEST ACCESSED
BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT. VISIT
TRANSPORTNSW.INFO FOR
TIMETABLE INFORMATION.

Sydney Technical High School



INFORMATION MORNING

Prospective Year 7 Students 2019

Tuesday 10 October 2017

at 9.15am in the School Auditorium

Sydney Technical High School, established in 1911, has a proud tradition of student achievement. The school prepares young men who are scholarly and socially responsible. Features of the school include languages, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking and sport. Teaching and learning programs feature higher order thinking and are recognised as best practice in gifted education. The school actively promotes an environment in which student welfare, tolerance of others and strong community values support each student reaching his potential.

Enrolments: Students seeking entrance into Year 7 must participate in selection procedures organised by the Department of Education. For further information contact the High Performing Students Unit on 1300 880 367 or email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au.

SYDNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

686 Forest Road Bexley 2207

www.sths.nsw.edu.au

Enquiries to the School: 9587 5899

An Academically Selective School for Boys



Youth Zone

TWEENS

11-13 yrs

Link • Laugh • Learn



Help and Support

A place to relax

Make New Friends

Fun Activities

It's
FREE

Tuesday 3:00pm - 5:00pm

3Bridges Youth Centre

18 Treacy Street, Hurstville 2220

For more information, please contact Leighton.

Leighton.Pollard@3Bridges.org.au

1300 3BRIDGES - 1300 327 434

WWW.3BRIDGES.ORG.AU

YOUTH ZONE

Tuesday 1 August 2017



Parent Information Session

Geography Workshop

Hurstville Public School
Forest Road
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

Ph: 02 9587 3963 Fax: 02 9553 8029
Email: hurstville-p.school@def.nsw.edu.au

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Wednesday 16 August, we will be holding a Parent Information Session on Geography. It will take place in the Demountable Staffroom from 9:30am-10:30am.

Come along and join in the workshop, as together we explore the new Geography syllabus.

The session will include:

- What is Geography?
- Geographical Inquiry Skills
- Geographical Concepts
- Geographical Tools
- Inspiring a Sense of Wonder

Please complete the slip below, if you intend to attend the workshop, and return to your **child's teacher** by **Friday 11 August 2017**.

Please contact Mrs Tina Cowley on 9587 3963, if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Mark Steed
Principal

Mrs Tina Cowley
Assistant Principal

Intention to attend: *Parent Information Session: Geography Workshop*

*Please return this slip to your child's teacher by **Friday 11 August 2017**.*

Your Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Class: _____

I will be attending the Geography session on Wednesday 16 August from 9.30 – 10.30am



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities