INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE HABITS IN THE EARLY YEARS

Engage
Experience
Empower

Grovelands
Primary School



Developing the habit of going to school every day is vitally important so your child does not miss out on important ideas, concepts, knowledge and skills they need for future learning.

Going to school every day helps children learn the important life skill of 'showing up' – at school, at work, to sport and other commitments.



Did you know?

- In the early years of school, concepts such as literacy and numeracy, are taught in a sequence. This means that if your child is often away from school, it can make it difficult to catch up later.
- In order to access the full curriculum and give your child the **best chance of success**, the Department of Education recommends the attendance rate of **95% or above**.
- The *School Education Act 1999* requires all enrolled students to attend every day that their school is open.
- The Western Australian Telethon Kids Institute has found that the attendance habits set in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary are likely to continue throughout a child's school life, so it is important for them to go to school every day.

Period of Absence	Rate of Attendance	Equivalent School Missed
Average of 5 days per term	90%	1 Year
1 Day per Week	80%	2 Years
1.5 Days per Week	70%	3 Years
2 Days per Week	60%	4 Years
3 Days per Week	40%	6 Years
5 Weeks per term	50%	5 Years

What can you do?

It is an exciting time for the whole family when your child starts school. You can help to make sure they have a positive first experience by providing your child with routines that help them know what to expect and feel secure in new environments. This can reduce their anxiety about going to school and help them develop independence and confidence.

For more information please contact:

You can help by:

- arranging for your child to meet a friend before school so they can go in together
- volunteering and helping out at school at least once a term
- getting clothes/uniforms and lunches ready the night before
- arriving and collecting your child from school on time
- making sure your child gets nutritious meals each day and enough sleep each night
- making appointments with doctors, dentists and specialists ***outside school time***
- making holiday plans during school holidays and ***not during school terms***.

If your child is unwell or you are having trouble getting your child to school, please let the teacher or front office know straight away.

You can do this by:

- Phone call - 9390 8411
- Note - give to teacher
- In person when you drop off or pick up your child
- Text – 0408 943 697
- Email- grovelandsps@education.wa.edu.au





What will the staff at Grovelands Primary School do?

- Offer developmentally, socially and culturally responsive learning opportunities.
- Monitor and document every student's attendance including talking with you about any absences.
- Work with you to overcome problems affecting your child's attendance.
- Reward attendance through a variety of classroom and whole school rewards.

For more information please contact:

Asher Trenorden **School Attendance Coordinator** **9390 8411**

REMOVE THIS SECTION IF DISTRIBUTING THIS INFORMATION TO PARENTS

Information for schools

Prior to use, principals should make a professional judgement on the information contained within this resource to ensure its relevance and validity within the context of their school.

This may include:

- adapting text within the resource where required
- whether the content is suitable for the whole school, a target group, or in individual cases
- whether the information would be best received as a supplementary resource to a meeting or face-to-face conversation with a parent or community member
- utilising key messages within this resource over a period of time as part of existing communications with parents and the community, rather than distributing the fact sheet as a once-off complete resource. For example, via SMS, the school app or social media, within the school newsletter, at assemblies or school events.

The requirements

While enrolment in Kindergarten is not compulsory, it is compulsory for all enrolled students to attend school, or participate in an educational program of the school, on the days on which the school is open for instruction (Section 23 of the *School Education Act 1999)*. This includes students enrolled in Kindergarten, and post-compulsory aged students enrolled in year 12.

Some functions of the *School Education Act 1999* relating to student attendance are not applicable for non-compulsory-aged students, such as attendance panels and prosecution.

The research

The Telethon Kids Institute report, *Student Attendance and Educational Outcomes: Every Day Counts* found that attendance patterns are established very early and are consistently maintained throughout a student's school career. The report highlighted the need to target the early years in order to improve attendance before patterns become established and more difficult to change.

Recording absences in the early years

In accordance with *Section 3.1 of the Student Attendance policy and procedures*, WA public schools are required to maintain accurate attendance records for every enrolled student, including the pre-compulsory year, Kindergarten (whether school-based or at a community Kindergarten).

Schools should record absences using the relevant lesson attendance codes. The Principal has the authority to determine which code is most applicable for each circumstance.

The purpose of these codes is for schools to be able to disaggregate their attendance data to determine common reasons for absence.

Communicating with parents

Informing parents of the critical learning, concepts or activities that their child will be missing and the potential impact may assist in communicating with parents about why attending every day is important.

Support

Join the Student Attendance Connect Community to connect with other WA public school staff about communicating with parents and strategies.

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