

## Hillcrest Primary Attendance expectation

### **Hillcrest Primary School is expected to:**

- aim to achieve 100% attendance for all students
- follow up all absences
- counsel students and their families about the impact of attendance on achievement.

### **At Hillcrest Primary School we:**

- Promote regular attendance at school to help establish routines and habits that transfer to all school and work settings.
- Encourage enrolment and attendance at preschool to ensure school readiness.
- Monitor rates and trends of attendance daily.
- Ensure consistency of message to parents and students from teachers.
- Discuss with families the need for regular attendance.
- Send letters home to parents asking them to explain absences and lateness.
- Refer chronic attendance or lateness concerns to Student Attendance Counsellors.

## Do I have to send my child every day?

### **Yes.**

A child who is at least six years old but not yet seventeen is of compulsory school age and must attend school every day that instruction is provided at the school unless:

- The child is too sick to leave the house.
- The child has an infectious disease like chicken pox, mumps or measles.
- The child has an injury preventing movement around school.
- The child is going with his/her parents/caregivers on a family holiday that cannot be arranged during school holidays. This is arranged with the Principal prior to the absence by applying for a school exemption.
- The Principal is provided with any genuine and acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.
- A medical or dental appointment could not be made out of school hours (wherever possible, appointments should be made out of school hours).

## Must I notify the school if my child has been away?

### **Yes.**

You are encouraged to contact the school by telephone on the day your child is away. If this is not possible, a note must be supplied to cover the days missed on your child's return.

If your child has seen a medical practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist) a note or appointment card from the practitioner will help explain the absence.

## Should I notify the school if my child refuses to go?

### **Yes.**

You should immediately contact school so we can help.

### **What assistance is available?**

You can discuss your concerns with your child's teacher, our Aboriginal Education Officer, Front Office receptionist, Deputy Principal or Principal.

If the problem persists, Student Attendance Counsellors can provide additional support to school students and their parents/caregivers to maintain regular patterns of attendance.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement.

Being absent 20 days a year from Reception to year 10 equates to one year of school missed.

Being half an hour late to school each day from Reception to year 10 equals missing 1 year and ½ a term of schooling.

Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive relationships with their peers.

Attendance and punctuality patterns continue into secondary school and work.

## Why so serious?

Punctuality and regular attendance at school are very important to allow consolidation of learning and to prevent “gaps” of learning appearing in a child’s education.

If students miss the basic skills in the early years of school, they often experience difficulties making the transition to secondary school as habits of poor attendance become ingrained.

Students who are frequently absent, late or depart early may also experience:

- Lack of continuity and familiarity resulting in them feeling less secure within the school environment.
- Loss of opportunity for play activities which improve social/emotional, physical and cognitive development.
- Isolation which may lead to bullying or teasing.
- Loss of self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Reduced opportunities in employment and further education.
- Over-representation in the Juvenile Justice System.

## Contact information

Principal: Lissa Hutter  
Deputy Principal: Robyn Holla  
Senior Leader OA Unit: Cathy Jackman

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Government of South Australia

Department for Education and  
Child Development



**HILLCREST**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
& ORAL AURAL UNIT

AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE

## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION



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