

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

Yes, you should contact the school immediately and seek assistance by discussing with your child's class teacher, School Counsellor or Principals.

At Morphett Vale Primary we want to support your child's attendance at school. We can help you;

- Define the problem
- Explore the issues maintaining the problem
- Identify some strategies which would support the student attending school

Explore strategies to support on-going attendance/punctuality

### What kind of assistance is available?

Student Attendance Counsellors are professionals who provide a supportive service to students, parents /caregivers and school staff.

They aim to assist all students to fully participate in their education.

### What is the role of the Student Attendance Counsellor?

Student Attendance Counsellors may assist by:

- Working with students in a supportive counselling role.
- Visiting students at home and consulting with parents/caregivers.
- Identifying reasons for student non-attendance and making appropriate referrals.
- Monitoring student attendance and reviewing progress as necessary.

**Todd Fort**  
**Student Attendance Counsellor**  
**Phone: 8207 3784**  
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# Student Attendance



## Morphett Vale Primary School

### Is your child at school?

**In South Australia all children between the age of 6 and 16 are required to attend school regularly.**

**ATTENDANCE INFORMATION  
FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS.**

**Parents/caregivers are responsible for making sure children go to school. Parents/caregivers can be taken to court and fined if they**

**persistently and knowingly do not send children to school or to school on time.**

#### At Morphett Vale Primary:

Lesson times are **8.45am – 3.05pm**.

Teachers are on duty from 8.30am for students to begin arriving at school. Students therefore must **not** be dropped off before 8.30am.

At Morphett Vale Primary School teachers are on duty until 3.20pm.

If your child is arriving **late** please report in through the front office. Please send a written note if you are not accompanying them.

If your child is going to be **absent** please let the school know that morning and send a written note to the teacher when your child returns.

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

Yes, unless

- The child is too sick to attend.
- The child has an infectious disease. Eg chicken pox, mumps, measles.
- The child has an injury preventing movement.
- The child is going on a family holiday with the approval of the principal.
- The principal is provided with a genuine and acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.

**RESEARCH SHOWS THAT THERE IS A DIRECT CORRELATION BETWEEN LATENESS, ATTENDANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT.**

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

A **call** to the school on the day of the absence is strongly encouraged.

Yes, on your child's return, a **note must be supplied** to cover the days missed.

#### Benefits of attending school:

The likelihood of **success in learning** is strongly linked to regular attendance and appropriate participation in educational programs.

It is crucial that students **develop habits of regular attendance** at an early age, even from the time they are enrolled in a Pre-School setting.

**POOR ATTENDANCE MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR STUDENTS TO FORM POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR PEERS.**

#### What if my child arrives late in the morning?

If your child is late they should go **straight to the front office** where they will receive a red card and their arrival time and the reason for being late will be recorded. They should then be taken directly to their class teacher.

Lateness is a serious matter and is recorded by the teacher, including the arrival time. **A note explaining lateness is expected** from the parent/caregivers.

**HALF AN HOUR LATE A DAY EQUALS ONE YEAR AND ONE AND A HALF TERMS AWAY FROM SCHOOL.**

#### What if my child becomes ill while at school?

If an accident or illness is at all serious you will be informed at once if possible. For this reason **it is really important that the school is provided with up to date and reliable home, work and emergency telephone numbers.**

#### What if my child has a dental, medical or some other important appointment?

Appointments should be arranged out of school hours where possible. If the appointment is in school hours a note from the parents/caregivers should be given to the teacher detailing the appointment.

**MISSING ONE DAY A WEEK OF SCHOOL FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR TEN MEANS MISSING TWO YEARS AND ONE TERM OF SCHOOLING.**